

Environment

Annual Report
2006-2007

Alberta





Alberta Environment is making a difference





minister's mandate

In December 2006, Premier Ed Stelmach mandated the Minister of Environment with the following three priorities:

- update Alberta's climate change plan
- renew and resource the *Water for Life* strategy
- address the cumulative effects of development



message from the minister



As the Minister of Environment, it is my pleasure to reflect on the significant milestones of 2006-07 that reinforce Alberta Environment's position as a leader in environmental protection.

In 2006, a new government structure emerged under Premier Ed Stelmach, addressing the priorities of Albertans and the realities facing our province today. The Premier laid out a five-priority plan for government: governing with integrity and transparency, managing growth pressures, improving Albertans' quality of life, building a stronger Alberta, and providing safe and secure communities. We are working to achieve these five priorities as a government.

As Minister of Environment, I have three specific priorities: updating Alberta's Climate Change Plan, renewing the Water for Life strategy, and addressing the cumulative effects of development. Alberta Environment is well positioned to meet these three priorities since realigning its business early in 2007.

In 2006-2007, Alberta Environment reaffirmed its leadership role on climate change, with the **Climate Change and Emissions Management Act**, requiring companies emitting more than 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas a year to reduce their emissions intensity by 12 per cent starting July 1, 2007. This is the next step in implementing Alberta's Climate Change Action Plan, and further solidifies our national reputation for responding to climate change.

Alberta Environment once again demonstrated its commitment to addressing water issues. The approval of the **South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan** in the summer of 2006 as well as the **Athabasca River Water Management Framework** in March 2007 ensure Alberta's water supply is appropriately managed and protected. The **Baseline Water-Well Testing for Coalbed Methane Operations** standard, which came into effect May 2006, ensures Albertans will continue to have access to clean and safe drinking water, a staple of Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy.

Alberta Environment continues to partner with stakeholders to seize Alberta's environmental opportunities. Working together, we will continue to move Alberta to the forefront of environmental protection and ensure the continued prosperity of our province.

I sincerely thank the staff of Alberta Environment for making the 2006-07 fiscal year a successful one. I also wish to thank our partners for their efforts of environmental stewardship. I look forward to our continued success.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rob Renner'.

Hon. Rob Renner
Minister of Environment

preface

The Public Accounts of Alberta are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and the *Government Accountability Act*. The Public Accounts consist of the annual report of the Government of Alberta and the annual reports of each of the 20 Ministries.

The annual report of the Government of Alberta released June 21, 2007 contains the President of Treasury Board's accountability statement, the consolidated financial statements of the Province, and a comparison of the actual performance results to desired results set out in the government's business plan, including the *Measuring Up* report.

This annual report of the Ministry of Environment contains the Minister's accountability statement, the audited financial statements of the Ministry, and a comparison of actual performance results to desired results set out in the Ministry business plan. This Ministry annual report also includes:

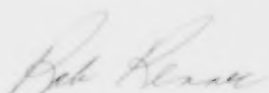
- Other financial information as required by the *Financial Administration Act* and *Government Accountability Act*, either as separate reports or as part of the financial statements, to the extent that the Ministry has anything to report; and
- Financial information relating to trust funds.

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minister's accountability statement

The Ministry's Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2007, was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Government Accountability Act* and the government's accounting policies. All of the government's policy decisions as at September 14, 2007 with material economic or fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in the preparation of this report.



Hon. Rob Renner
Minister of Environment

management's responsibility for reporting

The Ministry of Environment includes the Department of Environment and the Environmental Appeals Board. The executives of the individual entities within the Ministry have primary responsibility and accountability for the respective entities. Collectively, the executives ensure the Ministry complies with all relevant legislation, regulations, and policies.

Ministry business plans, annual reports, performance results, and the supporting management information are integral to the government's fiscal and business plans, annual report, quarterly reports, and other financial and performance reporting.

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statement and performance results for the Ministry rests with the Minister of Environment. Under the direction of the Minister, I oversee the preparation of the Ministry's annual report, including financial statements and performance results. The financial statements and the performance results, of necessity, include amounts that are based on estimates and judgments. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the government's stated accounting policies.

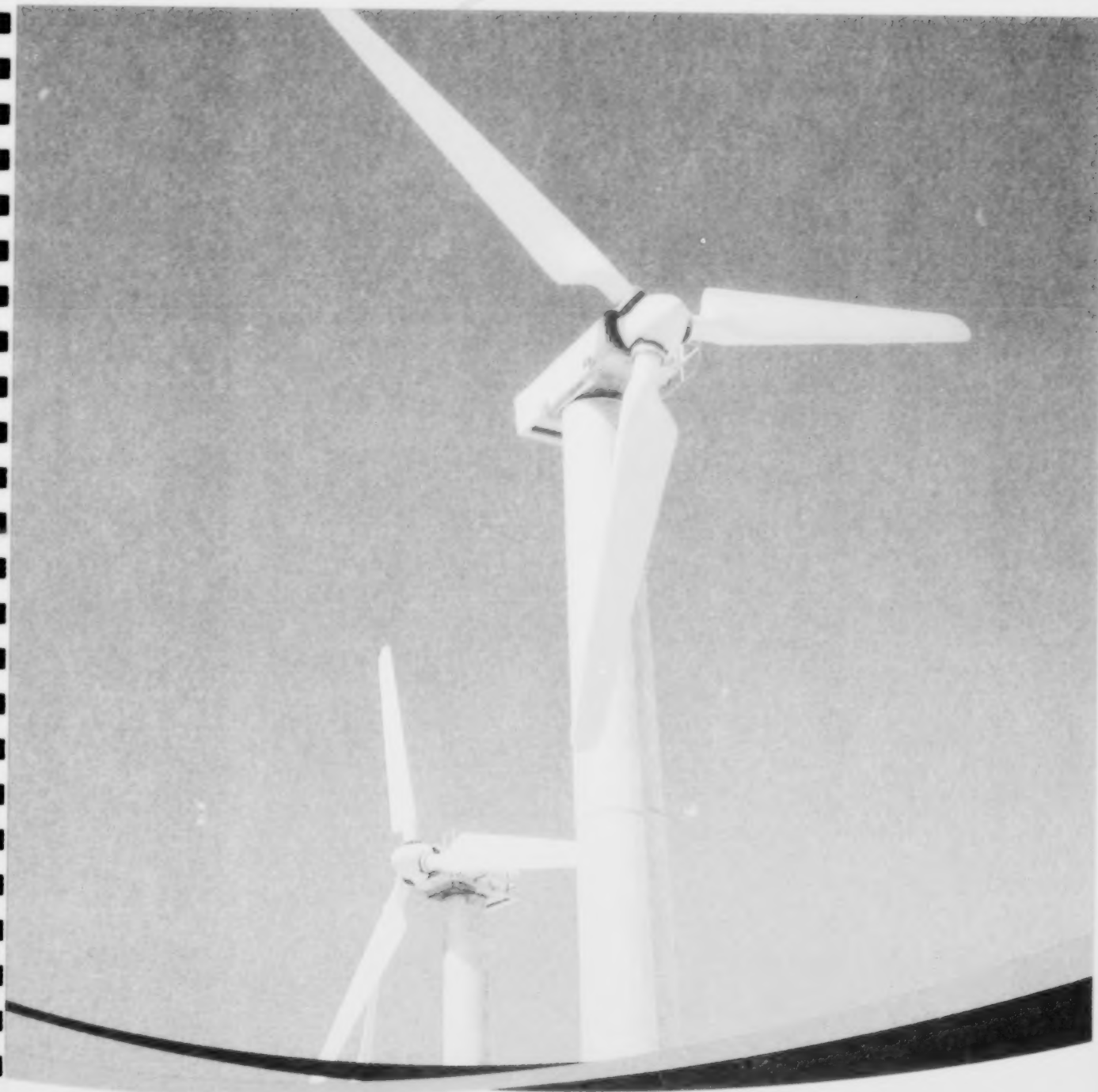
As Deputy Minister, in addition to program responsibilities, I establish and maintain the Ministry's financial administration and reporting functions. The Ministry maintains systems of financial management and internal control, which give consideration to costs, benefits, and risks that are designed to:

- Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, executed in accordance with prescribed legislation and regulations, and properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of public money.
- Provide information to manage and report on performance.
- Safeguard the assets and properties of the Province under Ministry administration.
- Provide Executive Council, Treasury Board, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Environment any information needed to fulfill their responsibilities, and
- Facilitate preparation of Ministry business plans and annual reports required under the *Government Accountability Act*.

In fulfilling my responsibilities for the Ministry, I have relied, as necessary, on the executive of the individual entities within the Ministry.



C. Peter Watson, P. Eng.
Deputy Minister of Environment
September 14, 2007



overview

The Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT) was established in follow up to one of the Environmental Protection Commission recommendations following the 2005 CN train derailment at Wabamun. As a centre of excellence in environmental emergency planning and response in Alberta, ASERT has coordinated and responded to several environmental incidents since its establishment and has begun developing vulnerability assessment processes to enhance response capability and to strengthen relationships with a number of partners, including provincial and municipal governments.

Ensuring safe, secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy continued as priorities this fiscal year under the *Water for Life* strategy. Accomplishments include the ongoing development of Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, the *Baseline Water Well Testing for Coalbed Methane Operations* standard, the Athabasca River Water Management Framework as well as the release of the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta Environment continued to lead the way on climate change by introducing the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act*, making Alberta the first province in Canada to introduce legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity from large industrial emitters. The *Specified Gas Emitters Regulation*, which comes into effect on July 1, 2007, requires all large industrial emitters to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 12 per cent.

LAND

Alberta Environment continued to support cross-ministry work on the Land-use Framework led by the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development in 2006-07. A land use forum, a public awareness campaign, and public consultations have been completed.

Being the best natural resource and environmental managers in the world continues as a guiding principle for Alberta Environment and its partners addressing land use on public and private land in Alberta. Several key planning and inventory steps were completed in 2006-07, including an inventory project with the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the sharing of geospatial information among ministries. Implementation of the Upstream Oil and Gas Policy Integration project continues.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

On the whole, Alberta Environment's performance measures show that Alberta continues to enjoy a high quality environment. Overall, the Drinking Water Safety Indicator shows improvements in regulated drinking water facilities and their operation. The natural variability in environmental conditions, such as extreme weather events affecting river water quality in some basins and the warmest, driest winter on record were reflected in some measures results varying from the targets set for 2006-07. The measures results also show that flood risk mapping and community awareness of flooding activities are proceeding and continue to serve Albertans well.

Strong growth pressures in Alberta impacted some performance measures. The amount of solid waste generated and disposed to municipal landfills increased rather than decreased and beverage container recycling return rates were less than forecasted despite the increase in the number of containers returned.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Ministry voted expenditures were \$152.7 million, which is within the total authorized budget that includes supplementary funding for continuing grant obligations under the Alberta Waste Management Assistance Program, Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program, and new funding for oil sands reclamation research and groundwater projects.

Revenue was \$9.9 million, which was \$0.8 million higher than the budget of \$9.1 million. This is mainly due to higher than anticipated revenues from the usage of our water management infrastructure.

an operational overview

The Ministry of Environment consists of the Department of Environment and the Environmental Appeals Board, which is a quasi-judicial board reporting to the Minister. In addition, three Delegated Administrative Organizations report to the Minister and operate with separate board governance and financial management. They are the Alberta Recycling Management Authority, the Beverage Container Management Board, and the Alberta Used Oil Management Association.

The Ministry's authority to carry out its mandate is based on the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Water Act*, and the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act*.

In January 2007, the Ministry of Environment was reorganized into four main business divisions and five support areas. This repositioning will help the Ministry execute its new mandate and business plan.

Figure 1: Ministry of Environment Organization



ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD

Steve E. Hruddy, Chair

Phone: (780) 427-6207

www.alberta.ca/eab

The Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) operates at arm's length from Alberta Environment and reports directly to the Minister of Environment.

The Environmental Appeals Board, consistent with the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Water Act*, provides fair, impartial, and efficient resolution of all matters before it. The Board's goal is to advance the protection, enhancement, and wise use of Alberta's environment.

The EAB was established on September 1, 1993 under Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. The EAB hears appeals under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Water Act*, and Schedule 5 of the *Government Organization Act*. The EAB has the power to make recommendations to the Minister of Environment, with the Minister making the final decision. On matters relating to requests for confidentiality, stays, costs, administrative penalties, and certain matters relating to water works, the EAB makes the final decision. The EAB does not replace or eliminate the right of Albertans to seek judicial review in the courts.

Vision

Promote a high quality of life in Alberta through the timely and thorough review of environmental decisions.

Mission

The Environmental Appeals Board will advance the protection, enhancement, and wise use of Alberta's environment by providing fair, impartial, and efficient resolution of all matters before it.

The EAB issues its own annual report at www.alberta.ca/eab/publications.htm.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT

C. Peter Watson, Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 427-6236

www.environment.alberta.ca

Alberta Environment oversees policies and initiatives associated with air quality, water management, waste management, land reclamation, and climate change. Alberta Environment manages the provincial environmental review process and coordinates public education on conservation and environmental protection. Alberta Environment is also responsible for environmental monitoring and compliance programs to enforce Alberta's environmental legislation and regulations.

Operations and Services

Alberta Environment is a partner in protecting and enhancing Alberta's natural environment. We work with our partners in their communities to ensure Albertans continue to enjoy the clean and healthy environment that is such an important part of our province's natural beauty. To do this effectively, we have staff located in communities throughout Alberta.

Alberta Environment is led by an Executive Team and is organized into four main business divisions:

Environmental Assurance, Environmental Management, Environmental Stewardship, and Oil Sands Environmental Management. Each division is in turn supported by People Services, Communications, Legal Services, Finance and Administration, and the Strategic Planning Secretariat.

Executive Team

C. Peter Watson, Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 427-6236

The Executive Team provides strategic, supportive, and results-oriented leadership. The team members are the Deputy Minister, the leaders of the four main divisions and the five support areas, and the Deputy Minister's Executive and Administrative Assistants. The Executive Team works together serving in their governance role by leading a system-based integrated approach, implementing strategic initiatives in a structured and managed way, focusing on doing the right things, and enhancing the Ministry's role as environmental leaders.

Ministry Divisions

Environmental Assurance Division

John Knapp, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 415-8183

Environmental Assurance is focused on policy development, information management, and monitoring and reporting to assess assurance of environmental outcomes. Key activities include development of legislation and completion of plans for greenhouse gas regulation, a policy for carbon capture and storage, development and implementation of approaches to improve public confidence in groundwater protection, launching a drinking water website, implementing recommendations from the Auditor General, information management/information technology, and improving Ministry information management systems and applications to support the assurance role.

Environmental Stewardship Division

Beverly Yee, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 427-6247

Environmental Stewardship develops major environmental strategies, stewards the relationship and capacity-building efforts required to be successful with Alberta Environment's partners, and leads the department's efforts on conservation, education, and outreach. Key activities include consultation with Albertans and development of a regulatory framework to address cumulative environmental effects of development, renewal of the *Water for Life* strategy and development of strategies to ensure it is resourced, and the renewal and updating of Alberta's Climate Change Plan in consultation with Albertans.

Environmental Management Division

Jim Ellis, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 422-6082

The Environmental Management Division develops place-based environment and resource management outcomes, stewards cumulative effects management systems and delivers on the Ministry's regulatory mandate within these systems. The division is also responsible for operation and maintenance of provincially-owned water management infrastructure, dam safety, flow forecasting, and river engineering. Key activities include development of a regional support team, which provide strategic operational support to all regions for planning, policy, co-ordination, training, and financial support, completion of a review of regional activities and workload, recommending changes to ensure long-term work life balance for regional staff, development and implementation of an education and outreach program highlighting the Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team's roles, responsibilities, capabilities, and development of environment and resource management outcomes for southern Alberta and the industrial heartland areas.

Oil Sands Environmental Management Division

Jay Nagendran, Assistant Deputy Minister

Phone: (780) 427-1335

Oil Sands Environmental Management Division develops place-based environment and resource management policies with a focus on oil sands development and northeastern Alberta. Key activities include development of environment and resource management outcomes for the oil sands, restructuring and reforming the Cumulative Environmental Management Association to be an effective partnership tool for adaptive management in the region, and participating in developing policy recommendations arising from the oil sands consultation process.

Ministry Support Areas

People Services

Mary Jefferies, Leader

Phone: (780) 422-7669

People Services sets the overall strategy for the optimum use of Alberta Environment's most important asset – its people. Through the development of the People Plan, People Services supports the Ministry's business plan and strategic priorities. People Services provides advice, guidance, and strategic direction for initiatives and activities impacting the people of Alberta Environment. Key activities include planning, coordinating, implementing and evaluating recruitment and classification actions, organizational design processes, organizational development plans, work place culture initiatives, and work place health and safety strategies.

Communications

Jim Law, Director

Phone: (780) 427-2848

The Communications Division provides the Ministry with quality, coordinated communication resources to build open communication between the Ministry and Albertans. The Division provides comprehensive communications support to department initiatives, programs, and services. It also works in partnership with government Ministries, other orders of government, and community and industry organizations to communicate key events and initiatives. The Communications Division provides strategic communications support to key department actions and serves as a spokesperson for the Ministry on corporate issues.

Legal Services

Grant Sprague, Team Lead

Phone: (780) 415-2318

Legal Services assists the department in achieving its objectives through the provision of effective legal and related strategic services. Legal specialists are members of legal practice groups, including hearings, contracts, compliance, regulatory tools, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*, the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* and the *Water Act*.

Finance and Administration

Mike Dalrymple, Senior Financial Officer

Phone: (780) 427-5022

Finance and Administration provides financial management and administrative services to the department. It leads and supports several department-wide initiatives, including managing requests and inquiries related to the *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*, records management, accommodations, contract and grant processing and management, financial statements preparation, IMAGIS reporting, budget and forecast preparation, purchase card management, and revenue processing.

Strategic Planning Secretariat

Darlene Harris-Williams, Director

Phone: (780) 415-0501

The Strategic Planning Secretariat identifies environmental trends and key strategic risks and opportunities and ensures they are incorporated in Alberta Environment's strategic, business and corporate operational plans. The Secretariat provides leadership and support on strategic, business, operational, legislative planning, integrated risk management, performance measurement, program evaluation, project management, and strategic intelligence.

key activities in 2006-07

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

As part of its ongoing regulatory streamlining efforts, Alberta Environment implemented new codes of practice for sawmills and forage drying operations. Codes of practice are province-wide operating rules for activities that ensure consistency in operating requirements. They rely on the use of registrations or notices, which are less costly and onerous than approvals to authorize activities. Alberta Environment exempted landscaping activities, geophysical activities, construction of dugouts, and diversion of water from requiring approvals when associated with non-fish bearing streams.

Alberta Environment continued consultations on amendments to the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* and the proposed *Specified Gas Emitters Regulation*. The legislative changes were completed in spring 2007. They are the most recent step in the implementation of Alberta's Climate Change Action Plan. The changes regulate the emission of greenhouse gases from large industrial sources in Alberta.

The Ministry amended the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* in response to recommendations pertaining to the management of contaminated sites. Amendments also supported the cross-ministry Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management initiative by providing for transfer and delegation of responsibilities to outside agencies and for designation of officials from outside agencies. The amendments also supported implementation of an emissions trading program for nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide emissions from coal fired power plants.

The Government of Alberta approved the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan. Work proceeded on a new regulation in support of the Plan, which creates a Crown reservation of water in three of the four sub-basins, closing them to further allocations of surface water, except for a few specified purposes. The new regulation is expected to be approved in 2007.

DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES

Developments in Alberta's oil sands make up the largest industrial complex in the world. The scale of this activity creates equally large perceptions about how Alberta is managing the environmental impacts of oil sands development.

Alberta Environment has an excellent environmental track record in northeastern Alberta. For example:

- air quality is rated Good between 97 and 98 per cent of the time;
- we have a world-class model for limiting water withdrawals on the Athabasca River; and
- we have comprehensive air, land, and water monitoring programs in place.

To ensure continued leadership, Alberta Environment created the Oil Sands Environmental Management division in January 2007. This division will continue to develop strategies to protect our environment and keep Alberta economically competitive. We are continuing our efforts to attract the world's best and brightest to work on policy development, clarifying the role of partnerships in the governance of oil sands development and exploring innovations for better environmental outcomes.

The division is also tasked with implementing recommendations from the Oil Sands Ministerial Strategy Committee and the Multi-stakeholder Consultation Committee, updating the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, and enhancing the operations of the Cumulative Environmental Management Association.



results analysis

message from the deputy minister



Alberta Environment's most valuable resource continues to be our people. The initiative and dedication of Alberta Environment staff remains a primary factor of our department's success.

We are working hard to ensure we have the culture, support, and tools staff need to continue to succeed in their work. Achieving this balance within our department allows Alberta Environment to forge ahead with our goals, ensuring Alberta's air, land, and water are protected.

2006-07 has given rise to a new wave of opportunity, both outside and within the department. Early in 2007, Alberta Environment realigned its business and resources to better meet the Minister's mandate as well as the demands of Alberta's rapidly growing economy. Work began on renewing our provincial climate change plan and will continue in the year to come, advancing our leading reputation in this area. 2006-07 also saw the creation of the Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT) to coordinate environmental emergency planning and response across Alberta and the approval of the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan to manage southern Alberta's water supply.

With this combined foundation of corporate and staff excellence, and with the support of our partners, Alberta Environment is well-positioned to meet future challenges.

I am proud to be part of an organization comprised of so many dedicated individuals working together for a common goal. I applaud each member of Alberta Environment for their professionalism and commitment as we continue to move toward ensuring Alberta's environment sustains a high quality of life well into the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Peter Watson'.

C. Peter Watson, P. Eng
Deputy Minister of Environment

reader's guide

The *Ministry of Environment 2006-07 Annual Report* is the key accountability document relative to the *Ministry of Environment 2006-09 Business Plan*. The Results Analysis section provides a discussion of the results and performance of the Ministry during the 2006-07 fiscal year and includes two main parts:

1. EXPENSES BY CORE BUSINESS

This portion outlines the amount of the total Ministry expense directed at achieving each of the two core businesses in 2006-07. An accompanying figure presents each expense amount as a percentage of the total Ministry expense, and shows which Ministry programs are part of each core business.

2. RESULTS ANALYSIS

This portion provides the progress that has been made on the numerous business plan strategies, as well as the results for the 10 performance measures that are used to track progress towards achieving the three goals in 2006-07. For each performance measure, a brief description, the target, the most current results available, and a discussion of the results are reported. Data sources and methodology provide additional information about the composition of the performance measures. Changes to performance measures information are included.

There is an integrated discussion of financial and non-financial information relative to the results achieved and significant events in 2006-07, as well as forward looking information highlighting significant developments that impact the Ministry's next business planning cycle.

Report of the Auditor General on the results of applying specified auditing procedures to performance measures



To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the performance results included in the *Ministry of Environment's 2006/2007 Annual Report*. My responsibility is to carry out the following specified auditing procedures on performance measures in the annual report. I verified:

Completeness

1. Performance measures and targets matched those included in Budget 2006. Actual results are presented for all performance measures.

Reliability

2. Information in reports from external organizations, such as Statistics Canada, matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results.
3. Information in reports that originated in the Ministry matched information that the Ministry used to calculate the actual results. In addition, I tested the processes the Ministry used to compile the results.

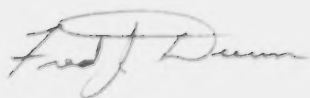
Comparability and Understandability

4. Actual results are presented clearly and consistently with the stated methodology and are presented on the same basis as targets and prior years' information.

I found no exceptions when I performed these procedures.

As my examination was limited to these procedures, I do not express an opinion on whether the set of measures is relevant and sufficient to assess the performance of the Ministry in achieving its goals.

Edmonton, Alberta
August 8, 2007

 FCA
Auditor General

expense by core business

Table 1

Ministry Expense by Core Business

Year ended March 31, 2007

(unaudited)

(in thousands)

		2007		2006
	Budget	Actual	Actual	
Assuring Environmental Quality	\$ 98,490	\$ 94,990	\$ 96,524	
Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship	44,175	56,211	44,016	
Total Ministry Expense	\$ 142,665	\$ 151,201	\$ 140,540	

Note: The total Ministry expense is included in only one function, Environment.

Figure 2

2006-07 Ministry Expense by Core Business

(in millions)



Assuring Environmental Quality

- Approvals
- Compliance and Enforcement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Standards
- Drinking Water
- Water Operations
- Business Planning and Performance
- Innovation and Policy
- Reclamation and Emergency Preparedness
- Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets

Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship

- Water for Life
- Climate Change
- Educational Awareness
- Integrated Resource Management
- Intergovernmental Relationships and Partnerships
- Ministry Support Services
- Valuation Adjustments and Other Provisions

discussion and analysis of results

Core Business One – Assuring Environmental Quality

GOAL ONE Alberta's environment is clean and safe

Every day more than three million Albertans are at work and play in our environment. Alberta Environment has a critical role in advising on and establishing policy for the Government of Alberta to ensure our air, land and water are protected. And every set of eyes helps Alberta Environment ensure people make good choices to ensure Alberta's spaces contribute to a good quality of life.

Last year, we received more than 15,400 calls. Staff look into every call, and respond to events with the potential to significantly and adversely impact Alberta's environment. In environmental emergencies, the Alberta Support and Environmental Response Team is called to hit the ground quickly, providing an immediate and coordinated response.

On January 23, 2007, Alberta Environment's hotline operator received a call from Suncor's Millenium oilsands project reporting a fire had broken out in the vacuum recovery unit. The incident response was centrally managed by the Alberta Support and Environmental Response Team. Alberta Environment provided regional onsite response, access to real-time air monitoring data, and local, department and media briefings. Department staff throughout the province worked together to provide timely and accurate information to protect the health of people in the area and the state of the environment.

WATER

Protection of Alberta's water resources continued to dominate Alberta Environment's work this fiscal year. The reopening of Lake Wabamun for recreational use, the establishment of the Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT), and the creation of the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan are just a few examples of Alberta Environment's achievements.

Residents of Lake Wabamun celebrated the reopening of their lake for recreational use within one year of the 2005 CN train derailment due to Alberta Environment's directed cleanup of Lake Wabamun's shorelines and surface water as well as groundwater monitoring in the area in 2006-07.

Following the train derailment at Wabamun and subsequent to recommendations made by the Environmental Protection Commission, Alberta Environment established ASERT to coordinate emergency planning and response across Alberta. As a world-class centre of excellence, ASERT works with other government ministries, municipalities, and industry during an environmental emergency to ensure the best positive environmental outcome. ASERT responded to 597 calls between November 2006 and March 2007.

A momentous step was taken to sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems and support sustainable economic development in August 2006, with the approval of the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan, a long-term vision for managing the water supply of southern Alberta. The first of its kind in Alberta, the South Saskatchewan River Basin Water Management Plan balances the needs of the environment and the economy as outlined in the watershed planning approach in the *Water for Life* strategy. The Plan was based on recommendations made by four basin advisory committees and through public and stakeholder consultations. The Bow, Oldman, and South Saskatchewan River sub-basins are now closed to new water license applications. More than 80 per cent of southern Alberta water users involved in the planning process, including industry, environmental, and local community leaders, support the basin closures.

The release of the Water Management Framework for the Lower Athabasca River in March 2007 is an additional initiative supporting healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustainable economic development. Alberta Environment worked jointly with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to develop this framework, which protects the ecological integrity of the lower Athabasca River during oil sands development.

Alberta Environment responded to and managed the impact of 14 flood-related events in Alberta in 2006, working cooperatively with local governments to support public safety and to protect drinking water supplies. Staff sustained 24-hour professional and technical flood management support and operated and managed provincially-owned water management infrastructure to ensure it continues to serve Albertans' needs.

Alberta Environment also provided ongoing support after the floods through a number of actions, including discussing flood management and post-flood damage with local authorities and individual stakeholders.

Implementation of *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability* continued during 2006-07 by:

- Developing a drinking water website to provide information on drinking water quality inspection reports and boil water advisories;
- Developing a water well drilling pilot audit program;
- Working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Alberta First Nations to support a cooperative agreement on drinking water;
- Initiating a provincial strategy for First Nations engagement in *Water for Life*;
- Commissioning the Rosenberg International Forum to review and make recommendations to strengthen the *Water for Life* strategy;
- Identifying emerging issues (e.g., disinfection by-products) in drinking water and developing a long-term and short-term sustainable plan to address these issues; and

- Working with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to implement a regional water supply in the Fort McMurray area.

In 2006-07, Alberta Environment continued to operate and maintain the provincially-owned water management infrastructure and worked with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation to implement non-operational maintenance and rehabilitation of these structures. Water user needs, in-stream flows, and apportionment requirements were all met. In addition, Alberta Environment worked with the City of Calgary to construct the Shepard storm water diversion project to address storm water and water quality issues, and continued to work with stakeholders throughout the province to ensure emergency preparedness and response at major infrastructure sites meets the needs of communities.

Improving the knowledge of Alberta's groundwater resources and ensuring Albertans continue to have access to clean, safe drinking water remained a priority with the development of the *Baseline Water-Well Testing for Coalbed Methane Operations* standard. The standard applies to coalbed methane wells above the base of groundwater protection. Companies must complete baseline testing on rural water wells before drilling to establish the production capability and water quality of the wells, as well as the presence of and composition of the gas. In June, Alberta Environment and its partners held 13 community information sessions to improve Albertans' understanding of groundwater protection and coalbed methane development across Alberta and the different roles government, health authorities, and industry play.

Improving groundwater information and management was further strengthened by the Energy Innovation Fund, which provided \$2.4 million for groundwater mapping, and by the establishment of eleven new groundwater monitoring wells. Alberta Environment also mapped the base of groundwater protection across Alberta and posted this information on the website. The department also worked with the Alberta Geological Survey and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board to develop a process to characterize the risk to aquifers in the Ardley coal zone.

Alberta Environment played a key role in Alberta Water Quality Awareness Day by developing an educational outdoor lab on water quality. Approximately 2,768 people, including students, families and landowners, collected water quality results from 966 sites across Alberta between May 15 and June 30.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* and the proposed *Specified Gas Emitters Regulation* furthered Alberta Environment's reputation as a leader in climate change response. A key element of Alberta's leadership is education. As such, Alberta Environment provided ongoing support for Climate Change Central to educate Albertans on energy efficiency and to support projects that lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Collaboration on the feasibility of a system for the capture, transportation, enhanced oil recovery (EOR) application, and non-EOR storage of carbon dioxide continued with Alberta Energy and Alberta Innovation and Science.

AIR

Alberta Environment continued its partnership with a variety of organizations and governments on air quality issues. Work with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance resulted in the development of a strategic air quality plan to address air emissions from existing and future confined feeding operations. Through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Alberta Environment developed a Canada-wide standard for mercury from coal fired electrical generation plants and reviewed existing national standards for particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and ozone, and dioxins and furans. The science of nitrogen emissions, their environmental effects, and management approaches as they would apply in Alberta were discussed at the Clean Air Strategic Alliance Science Symposium on Nitrogen, held September 27-29, 2006.

LAND

Alberta Environment, together with its partners, is taking steps to ensure the activities impacting our land are being managed appropriately. Alberta Environment continued working toward the development of long-term strategies for waste reduction through stakeholder consultations on a provincial paint stewardship program and a construction and demolition waste initiative. These projects will divert waste paint and construction and demolition waste from Alberta's landfills.

Work on the Land-use Framework continued during 2006-07. This framework looks at how communities in rural and urban centres grow, and addresses how, in light of Alberta's growth, municipalities can use and manage land appropriately. Alberta Environment, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Energy, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing (formerly Alberta Municipal Affairs), International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations (formerly Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development), Alberta Agriculture and Food (formerly Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development), and Seniors and Community Supports (formerly Alberta Community Development) hosted the Government of Alberta's Land-use Framework forum in December. Approximately 150 stakeholders from across Alberta took part. Public consultations in early 2007 gave Albertans a voice in the development of the framework. Albertans learned more about the scope and complexity of land management issues through a public awareness campaign.

Waste Reduction Week, October 16-22, 2006, and the second annual Sort It Out! event emphasized Alberta Environment's leadership in resource conservation. Working in partnership with the Recycling Council of Alberta and ACCESS TV among others, Waste Reduction Week continues to encourage and celebrate governments, schools,

businesses, organizations, and Albertans who reduce waste and educate others on the social, environmental, and economic benefits of waste reduction. As a result of the event:

- Eight new communities declared Waste Reduction Week;
- 42 organizations registered waste-reduction week events; and
- 46 classrooms participated in waste-related contests.

The Sort It Out! project was developed in partnership with ACCESS TV, the City of Edmonton, and the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation. Approximately 1,100 SortItOut.ca teaching kits – a package of waste management resources for Alberta students and educators – have been distributed since being launched in May 2005 and the website has consistently received 25,000 page views per month since its launch in September 2005.

Another successful 2006-07 Alberta Environment initiative was the initiation and development of the Pollution Prevention & Resource Conservation Policy to develop waste reduction and green procurement policies for the Government of Alberta. It provides each Ministry with direction to help them prevent pollution, conserve resources, and institute green procurement.

Under the Government of Alberta's Innovation Program, Alberta Environment was awarded \$1.4 million for two projects that will identify how to keep certain types of plastics and drywall out of Alberta's waste stream. Both projects will help Alberta Environment reduce Alberta's municipal solid waste stream, demonstrating Alberta Environment's commitment to resource conservation, resource recovery, and waste reduction.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Being the best resource and environmental managers in the world is a commitment shared by Alberta Environment, Alberta Energy, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, the Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management (SREM) ministries. During 2006-07, Alberta Environment, working closely with its SREM partners, developed a Policy Integration Framework and reviewed upstream oil and gas development activities to identify and reduce policy and regulatory overlaps, inconsistencies, and gaps.

Consultations on oil sands development and the Land-use Framework are proceeding using SREM's approach of collaboration, information sharing, and joint responsibility as indicated by Alberta Environment's participation in the multi-stakeholder oil sands consultation process led by Alberta Energy. Achievements in improving information, technology, and knowledge management capacity included completing the Land Information Inventory project in partnership with the Alberta Chamber of Resources.

Work also progressed on the Southern Alberta Sustainability Strategy.

STAFF CAPABILITY

Continuous improvement in environmental performance is achieved through knowledge, skills and leadership training. To support this, Alberta Environment contributed to the expansion of the joint Leadership Program to include several other Ministries and implemented a Senior Manager Leadership Program for positional leaders. Celebration of these leadership accomplishments and the achievements of all staff took place during the second annual People Day.

REGULATED DRINKING WATER

1A Drinking Water Safety Indicator

The Drinking Water Safety Indicator measures the ability of regulated facilities to provide safe drinking water to Albertans. The indicator is comprised of three sub-measures that demonstrate continuous improvement of facilities and their operations:

- **Facility Design Standards**
The number (per cent) of facilities meeting the newest (1997 or 2006) standards, as applicable.
- **Facility Operational Requirements**
The number of incidents where regulatory requirements have not been met that could lead to water quality incidents.
- **Water Quality**
The number of water quality incidents.

This measure demonstrates the success of Alberta's drinking water program, ensuring Albertans continue to enjoy safe drinking water.

Targets

- Facility Design Standards: 355
- Facility Operational Requirements: 20
- Water Quality: 45

Table 2

Drinking Water Safety Indicator

Facility Design Standards

Facility	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Alberta	355	355	355
Calgary	100	100	100
Edmonton	100	100	100
Grande Prairie	100	100	100
Red Deer	100	100	100
St. John's	100	100	100
Wetaskiwin	100	100	100

Facility Operational Requirements

Facility	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Alberta	20	20	20
Calgary	5	5	5
Edmonton	5	5	5
Grande Prairie	5	5	5
Red Deer	5	5	5
St. John's	5	5	5
Wetaskiwin	5	5	5

Water Quality

Facility	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Alberta	43	43	43
Calgary	10	10	10
Edmonton	10	10	10
Grande Prairie	10	10	10
Red Deer	10	10	10
St. John's	10	10	10
Wetaskiwin	10	10	10

Overall, the Drinking Water Safety Indicator shows improvement in regulated drinking water facilities and their operation in 2006-07.

Facility Design Standards – 459 (81 per cent) of regulated systems had treatment technology in place meeting the latest facility design standards. This is an improvement in water quality technology at three per cent of facilities over the previous year. The remaining facilities meet an older standard and will require upgrading over time.

Facility Operational Requirements – Compliance with facility operational requirements remained at the same level in 2006-07, with 35 incidents in 28 facilities. These results did not meet the target of 20 incidents. Significant progress was achieved in addressing the most important challenge identified in previous results, of recruiting and retaining certified operators. However, other challenges, mainly related to meeting monitoring requirements, require further efforts and have contributed to our not meeting the target. We have developed a strategy to address this challenge which should reduce the number of incidents in future results.

Water Quality – 43 water quality incidents occurred at 40 facilities. The number of incidents decreased over the previous year, as did the number of facilities where these incidents occurred.

18 River Water Quality Index

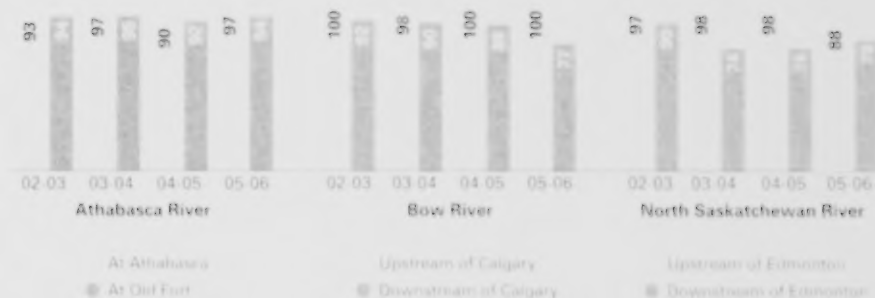
The River Water Quality Index is used to evaluate water quality in Alberta's major river systems with respect to four groups of variables: metals, bacteria, nutrients, and pesticides. Data from these four groups are combined to provide an indication of overall water quality. River water quality is reported because the effects of human activities are generally more diverse and easier to measure in rivers than in lakes. The Index can be used to show relative differences in water quality between rivers, between sites on the same river (e.g., upstream and downstream of developed areas), and over time. Such differences highlight degradation or improvement that may have a human cause.

Data for the River Water Quality Index are collected monthly at numerous locations throughout the province. These stations make up the provincial Long-Term River Network. Stations upstream and downstream of agricultural, industrial, or municipal areas are compared to examine the overall impact of these developments on river water quality. Index values for a subset of these stations from the province's six major river systems show changes in water quality that have occurred over the past several years.

Key:

- six out of six river systems have "good" to "excellent" water quality

Figure 2
River Water Quality Index
(index 0-100)



Athabasca River

The Athabasca River flows through the northern part of Alberta. It is one of the largest rivers in the province. The river is used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, industry, and recreation. The water quality index for the Athabasca River is generally high, indicating good water quality. However, there are some concerns about the impact of human activities on the river, particularly in the downstream areas.

Bow River

The Bow River flows through the southern part of Alberta. It is one of the largest rivers in the province. The river is used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, industry, and recreation. The water quality index for the Bow River is generally high, indicating good water quality. However, there are some concerns about the impact of human activities on the river, particularly in the downstream areas.

North Saskatchewan River

The North Saskatchewan River flows through the southern part of Alberta. It is one of the largest rivers in the province. The river is used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, industry, and recreation. The water quality index for the North Saskatchewan River is generally high, indicating good water quality. However, there are some concerns about the impact of human activities on the river, particularly in the downstream areas.

Water

In 2005-06, two out of six river systems continued to demonstrate "good" to "excellent" water quality, therefore, the target to have all six river systems with this high level of water quality was not met. Various natural and human factors can influence the river water quality index, such as flow volume, degree of development in the basin, point source effluents that discharge into rivers, and non-point sources of runoff (such as from agricultural fields). In the current reporting period, higher than normal rainfall amounts in the Oldman, Bow, Red Deer, and North Saskatchewan River basins likely led to increased non-point

source runoff. Nutrients and bacteria contained in the soil, both naturally and as a result of human activities, may have been collected by the runoff contributing to higher levels of these contaminants in rivers.

In 2005-06, unusually high river flows caused a reduction in Index values for several of Alberta's major rivers. As a result, water quality was generally rated "fair" to "good." Five out of 12 sampling sites rated "fair". The remaining seven sites all scored "good" or "excellent" water quality.



Figure 1

River Water Quality Index Monitoring Stations Map Indicating 2005-06 Results



Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) measures outdoor concentrations of five major air pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). In 2006, the AQI was calculated based on data from 13 continuous monitoring stations: three stations each in Edmonton and Calgary, two stations in Fort McMurray, and one station each in Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Medicine Hat.

Air quality is influenced by a number of factors including vehicle emissions, weather patterns, forest fires, and intensity of industrial development. In Alberta, "poor" or "very poor" air quality can occur when smoke from wildfires is transported into urban centers. "Poor" air quality can also occur during summertime and wintertime smog events.

On hot, sunny summer days, smog can be formed due to a complex set of chemical reactions involving pollution from automobiles and industry. Summertime smog has a light brown color and can reduce visibility. Ground-level ozone is a major component of summertime smog.

Wintertime smog can occur when there is a strong temperature inversion and light winds. This combination of weather conditions will often create a layer of cool, stagnant air near the ground. Air pollutants, mostly from automobiles, are trapped in this layer of stagnant air.

Targets

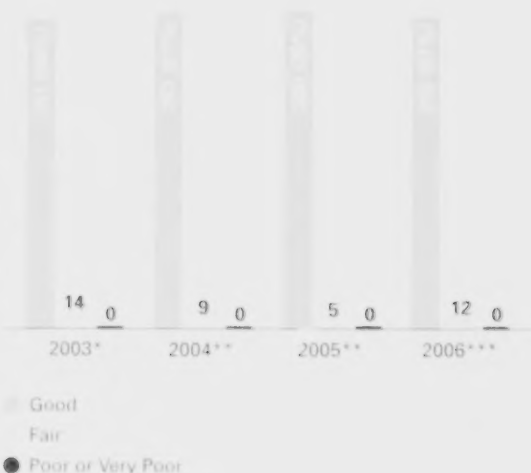
- "Good" air quality days 97 per cent of the time

Results

In 2006, Alberta had 353 "good" air quality days out of 365. Therefore 97 per cent of the time "good" air quality days occurred, which met the 97 per cent target. The number of "good" days decreased from 99 per cent in 2005 to 97 per cent in 2006. The number of "fair" air quality days was greater in 2006-07 than the previous two years.

Figure 4

**Air Quality Index
(number of days)**



* Based on data from 10 stations

** Based on data from 12 stations

*** Based on data from 13 stations (the Edmonton Northwest station was replaced by the Edmonton South station in 2006)

Figure 5
Air Quality Index Ambient Stations Map



1D. Effective Water Management Infrastructure

Effective Water Management Infrastructure (EWMI) includes physical assets such as dams, canals, and control structures. It measures the three aspects of provincially owned and operated water management infrastructure as required by the government's Capital Planning Initiative. Reporting of various levels of infrastructure performance for each measure in EWMI is based on the percentage of the replacement value of the infrastructure being assessed.

• Physical Condition

The state of physical fitness or readiness for use, based on established standards for the type of infrastructure asset. The physical condition is a critical factor involved in the decision to maintain, rehabilitate, or replace the infrastructure.

• Functional Adequacy

Whether the asset is able to meet program requirements or provide an adequate level of service. While the asset may be in good physical condition with sufficient available capacity to meet demand, poor physical layout, inefficient design, or inability to meet code requirements can make it functionally inadequate.

• Utilization

The ability of an asset to carry out its intended function based on current standards or practices, independent of physical condition. Significant over utilization or under utilization may indicate the need to construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, dispose, or reevaluate the need for the asset.

Quality infrastructure is a key factor in ensuring a clean and safe environment and is an essential building block to support economic development.

Target

- Physical Condition: Good – 93.0 per cent, Fair – 7.0 per cent, Poor – 0.0 per cent
- Functional Adequacy: 95.0 per cent
- Utilization: 99.0 per cent

Results

The effectiveness of the province's water management infrastructure continued to be high in 2006-07.

Physical Condition – In 2006-07, the percentage of the province's water management infrastructure in "good" physical condition was 97.0 per cent. This is an increase of 1.5 per cent from the previous year, and exceeds the target of 93.0 per cent.

Functional Adequacy – The percentage of assets determined functionally adequate in 2006-07 is 95.1 per cent, exceeding our target of 95.0 per cent.

Utilization – "Good" utilization of water management infrastructure continued to be very high in 2006-07 at 99.8 per cent. This exceeds our target of 99.0 per cent.

Table 8 Effective Water Management Infrastructure

Measure	2005-06	2006-07
Physical Condition	95.5	97.0
Functional Adequacy	94.5	95.1
Utilization	99.5	99.8

1E Community Flood Risk Mapping

The Community Flood Risk Mapping measure shows the number of flood risk mapping reports completed and flood risk maps available on Alberta Environment's website for communities identified as having a flood risk.

There is a significant amount of resources and data used to develop each flood risk map and report. The purpose of flood risk mapping is to reduce potential flood damages and costs to Canada, Alberta, and the public by identifying flood risk areas and encouraging appropriate development in those areas.

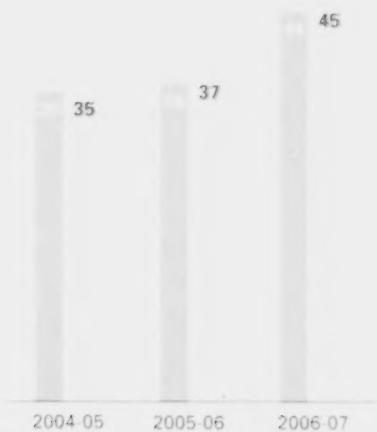
- Flood risk mapping reports completed: 38
- Flood risk maps available on Alberta Environment's website: 37

Results

In 2006-07, the total number of flood risk mapping reports completed rose to 44, and the total number of flood risk maps available on Alberta Environment's website rose to 45. The target is to incrementally increase the number of maps and reports by two each, annually. In 2006-07, these targets were exceeded by using additional funds allotted from the *Water for Life* strategy.

The number of flood risk maps available on Alberta Environment's website is higher than the flood risk mapping reports completed because a map may be posted on the website prior to the report being completed.

Community Flood Risk Mapping



■ Flood Risk Mapping Reports Completed*
■ Flood Risk Maps Available on Alberta Environment's Website**

* A Flood Hazard Information Report for a flood prone area is considered to be complete when sufficient technical information has been assembled to adequately assess the flooding potential.

** The website offers a variety of ways to retrieve flood hazard information and, due to the special display of data, it may be difficult to correlate the number of maps on the website to the number outlined in the Annual Report (e.g. 45 maps in the measure and 46 municipalities listed). Additionally, maps may be added to the website throughout the year as reports are completed.

Core Business One – Assuring Environmental Quality

GOAL TWO Albertans receive effective and efficient services

Alberta weather is jokingly referred to as “unpredictable at best”. But the weather was no laughing matter for many Albertans in southern and central Alberta last year. On June 26, 2006 heavy precipitation fell in central and southern Alberta. The rain caused several Alberta creeks and rivers to reach near flood levels.

North of the weather watch area, in Edmonton, people were also hustling to respond to the rain. Alberta Environment's team of river forecasters were working to ensure that central and southern municipalities had current information to make the best decisions for people with the potential to be impacted by flooding. Relying on some of the best technology available, Flow Forecasting and Communications worked together to provide real-time information about the amount of water flowing through Alberta's prominent rivers and creeks. This information allowed municipalities and people living in flood watch areas to make informed decisions about the action needed to protect their surroundings, loved ones and personal belongings.

2006 marked the first year of the River Forecasting Centre Hot Site, an alternate site for flood forecasting emergencies for business continuity reasons. The establishment of this alternate site ensures the River Forecasting Centre is able to continue to provide critical real-time water information and forecasts to dam operators, municipalities, and others during flooding events.

Alberta Environment provided a number of flood-related services during 2006-07 by:

- Issuing 36 high streamflow, ice and flood-related advisories and warnings;
- Working with local government officials to monitor river levels during the river ice season;
- Assisting local authorities in making appropriate development decisions in flood prone areas; and
- Completing eight new flood risk studies.

Alberta Environment assures effective and efficient services through a variety of partnerships and information-sharing activities. Alberta Environment's capacity to plan and respond to environmental emergencies for example is made possible through ASERT and its work with other government Ministries, municipalities, and industry. Other examples of partnerships and information sharing in 2006-07 included:

• EnviroVista

The program demonstrates that innovation is part of Alberta Environment's Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Network by recognizing and rewarding voluntary environmental accomplishments, and encouraging facilities to perform beyond regulatory requirements. Twelve new EnviroVista Leaders were named in 2006-07, in addition to 12 renewed Leaders. Three further facilities will be pursuing the Champion Level.

- **2006 Alberta's Environment Conference**

Alberta Environment partnered with the Environmental Services Association of Alberta and various other government ministries and associations to host 2006 Alberta's Environment Conference.

- **State of Environment website**

This website is a public resource for current and reliable information on Alberta's environment. It reports important trends and pressures, as well as actions taken by government and other agencies affecting the environment. The website was visited 100,781 times for the year ending March 31, 2007.

- **Environment Week 2006**

Focused on the theme of climate change and energy efficiency, numerous activities were held across Alberta, including the Minister for the Day program hosted by Alberta Environment. Ten Grade 5 students were chosen from over 800 program submissions to come to Edmonton and meet Alberta's minister of environment.

Alberta Environment continued to partner with a number of organizations to develop information resources, education programs, and environmental curricula: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Inside Education, Northern Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises, Alberta Education, Association of Summer Villages of Alberta, Fort Air Partnership, and community water monitoring pilots.

Alberta Environment continued to develop a Third Party Contracting Program for reviewing major projects.

Through its Education and Information Centre, Alberta Environment:

- Answered over 7,600 telephone calls and processed 5,200 e-mail requests; and
- Received over 3,025,120 hits on the Information Centre homepage and over 246,900 hits on the Education website.

During 2006-07, Alberta's Recycling Information Line, a partnership between Alberta Environment and Environmental Services Association of Alberta, received approximately 800 calls per month from municipalities, businesses, and the general public, addressing a variety of questions on recycling and waste minimization.

STAFF CAPABILITY

In 2006-07, work continued on developing a Staff Capability Framework, which would include plans for succession management, culture, and training and development.

3.3 Stakeholder Satisfaction

The Stakeholder Satisfaction measure indicates the percentage of stakeholders satisfied with Ministry programs and services based on survey results. The stakeholder satisfaction survey is conducted biannually and was previously reported for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

In 2004-05, results reported on this measure were based on the proportion of stakeholders who responded they were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Ministry programs or services.

In addition to reporting on stakeholders who were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with Ministry program and services, the 2006-07 reported results includes the proportion of stakeholders who responded they were "slightly satisfied". This is intended to provide a more inclusive report of stakeholder satisfaction.

The results for 2004-05 have been restated to include all categories of stakeholder satisfaction to provide a relevant basis of comparison with 2006-07 results.

The 2006-07 target for stakeholder satisfaction was 58.0 per cent. This target was based on the "very satisfied" and "satisfied" categories.

Survey information for Stakeholder Satisfaction in 2006-07 showed that the percentage of stakeholders who were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Ministry programs and services was 47 per cent, which was 11 per cent below the target set for 2006-07.

When survey results for stakeholders who were "slightly satisfied" are included, stakeholder satisfaction with Ministry programs or services for 2006-07 was 84 per cent.

The survey also included questions on partnerships, as the Ministry collaborates with a wide range of partners. Of the respondents that have been involved in a Ministry partnership, 93 per cent responded that they were either "very satisfied", "satisfied" or "slightly satisfied" with the role its organization has with the Ministry.

Figure 3
Stakeholder Satisfaction Ratings
(percentage among all respondents)



Core Business Two – Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship

GOAL THREE Albertans work with others to safeguard the environment

Every spring millions of ducks return to Alberta ponds to nest and breed. In order to make the long trip north to Alberta, ducks form partnerships. They fly in a reverse "v" formation to conserve energy by reducing wind resistance. The birds take turns being in the front, falling back when they get tired.

Alberta Environment also recognizes the benefits of working in partnerships to protect our land, air and water. For example, last year Alberta Environment supported eight Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils as they began to develop water management plans for the Battle, Beaver, Bow, Lesser Slave, Milk, North Saskatchewan, Oldman and Red Deer river basins. The plans, to be complete by 2010, will provide a long-term vision for water supply in local areas and seek to balance environmental protection and economic development.

WATER

To ensure Alberta's water supplies are safe, secure, and reliable into the future, Alberta Environment asked the Alberta Water Council to review the province's water management policy for moving water between rivers within the same major basin. The Council's recommendations are expected in fall 2007. The completion of the Cold Lake/Beaver River Water Management Plan and progress on the Lesser Slave Lake Water Management Plan are two additional successes supporting environmental planning and management in Alberta.

There were four Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils formed in 2006, including:

- Battle River Watershed Alliance;
- Beaver River Watershed Alliance;
- Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council; and
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada.

In addition, a new water use policy and guideline for oilfield injection was implemented in 2006-07, supporting the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Water Use and Policy.

Wetlands are critical habitats to ensure Alberta's water supplies remain safe, secure and reliable into the future. Alberta Environment continued collaborating with other Ministries and stakeholders on a drained wetland inventory to achieve sustainable wetlands.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alberta participated in the 12th session of the United Nations Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, Kenya, December 6-17, 2006. Alberta's priorities were to advance technology options, such as CO₂ capture and storage, and to focus more attention on the real impacts of climate change occurring in Canada. Progress was made on the development of a new climate change treaty that would take effect post 2012.

To help promote energy efficiency and conservation, Alberta Environment continues to work with Climate Change Central and its subsidiary, Energy Solutions Alberta. Climate Change Central, a public-private partnership, has delivered rebate programs on high efficiency furnaces and front loading clothes washers, along with incentives to encourage the use of hybrid vehicles as taxis (Hail-a Hybrid) and vehicle scrappage programs (Car Heaven with the Clean Air Foundation).

In 2006-07, three new airshed zones were established across Alberta: Calgary Regional Airshed Zone, the Capital Airshed Alliance, and Alberta Central Airshed Society.

Further key actions related to air quality were made by:

- Alberta Environment and the Fort Air Partnership, which developed a Regional Air Dispersion Model and Emissions Inventory as part of a regional strategy to assess the cumulative impacts and ambient air concentration levels in the Fort Saskatchewan area;
- West Central Airshed Society, which redeveloped the High Tower monitoring station to use alternate energy sources;
- Parkland Airshed Management Zone, which developed an ozone and particulate matter management plan at the City of Red Deer; and
- Lakeland Industry and Community Association, which made changes to its bylaw and committee structure to support the work of the airshed zone.

Alberta Environment completed the first two annual assessments of particulate matter and ozone data to support the commitment to the Clean Air Strategic Alliance's (CASA) Particulate Matter and Ozone Management Framework. As a result of these assessments, airshed partnerships in the Edmonton, Calgary, and Red Deer areas are proactively developing management plans to ensure air quality levels exceed Canada-wide standards.

Work also continued on implementing the Human Health and Animal Health recommendations and increasing the use of renewable and alternate electricity in Alberta.

Alberta Environment continued working with the federal government on policy development,

including discussions on the role of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. At the October 2006 meeting in Yellowknife, the Council adopted a new mercury standard for coal fired electric power generation plants, approved moving forward with consultations on a new municipal wastewater strategy, and explored opportunities to reduce packaging and improve the environmental assessment processes in Canada.

In November 2006, the Government of Alberta enhanced its partnership with the Alberta Emerald Foundation to foster environmental stewardship in Alberta.

Fostering the actions, ideas, and enthusiasm of Alberta's youth continues to be a priority at Alberta Environment. A key success in 2006-07 was YES!, a youth environmental summit in October 2006, which attracted over 170 youth aged 16 to 25. A new Youth Environmental Stewardship grant program was introduced at the summit.

Alberta Environment also fostered the development of the Alberta Land Trust Alliance, a network of land trust agencies in Alberta interested in land conservation.

Work on Alberta Environment's First Nations Consultation Guidelines progressed, as did work on the Alberta-British Columbia Harmonization Agreement, the Rural Development Strategy, a cumulative effects management system, as well as a road map outlining Alberta's strategies for improved waste management. Development of a public awareness and education program to promote conservation, waste reduction, and environmental protection also progressed.

Alberta Environment continued working with the federal government on policy development,

Learning and development opportunities are strongly encouraged at Alberta Environment. Alberta Environment staff participated in a number of sessions offered through EnviroU, which is a comprehensive approach to employee training. Sessions included:

- systems thinking and policy;
- group facilitation skills; and
- critical skills for communication.

12 Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills

The amount of waste disposed in landfills affects the quality of Alberta's land, air and water. The Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills performance measure is used to highlight the Ministry's efforts in working with Albertans to encourage waste reduction. It indicates Alberta's progress towards meeting a continuous reduction, on a per capita basis, of municipal solid waste disposed in landfills. Progress is measured against annual targets.

- 770 kilograms per capita

Municipal solid waste disposed in landfills increased from 806 kilograms per capita in 2005 to 818 kilograms per capita in 2006. The increase is a reflection of Alberta's continued robust economy, as it includes waste from the residential sector; the industrial, commercial and institutional sector; and the construction, renovation, and demolition sector.

Figure 12
Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills
(kilograms per capita)



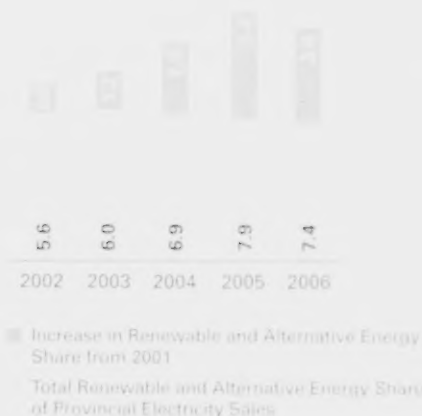
13 New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation

The generation of renewable and alternative energy is an important part of Alberta's climate change action plan. The New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation performance measure indicates Alberta's progress toward increasing the renewable and alternative energy portion of total provincial energy production. It measures the increase in the renewable and alternative energy portion of the province's total electricity sales from 2001 (4.8 per cent).

- 2.5 per cent

The renewable and alternative energy share from 2001 has generally been increasing each year. Although there was a slight decline in 2006 compared to 2005, the percentage still remains above the 2001 base year and is within our target.

Figure 13
New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation
(percentage)



2006 Beverage Container Return Rate

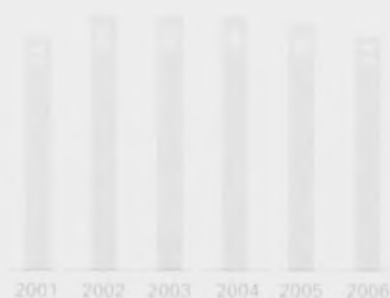
Recycling is a major way for Albertans to take part in caring for the environment. The Beverage Container Return Rate measures the return rate of beverage containers each year based on sales and returns. The Beverage Container Return Rate is the primary measure of performance for the Beverage Container Management Board.

- 85 per cent

Although more empty beverage containers were recycled in 2006, the return rate dropped to 74 per cent, which is short of the 85 per cent target. This is the lowest return rate in the four years since beer products came into the regulated system in November 2001.

The largest reason for the return rate decrease was the system's inability to keep up with the record year of beverage sales. The sales increase (from 1.75 billion containers in 2005 to 1.96 billion in 2006) far exceeded the average annual sales increase for the past three years.

Beverage Container Return Rate
(percentage)



2006 Used Oil Recovery Rate

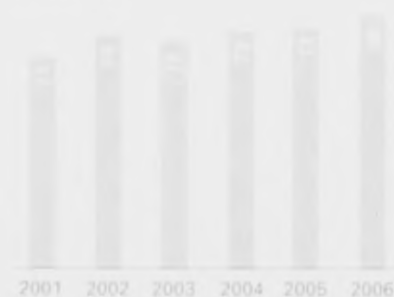
The Used Oil Recovery Rate measures the amount of used oil recovered each year as a percentage of the estimated volume of recoverable oil. The Used Oil Recovery Rate is a primary measure of performance for the Alberta Used Oil Management Association.

- 75.5 per cent

In 2006, 80 per cent of the used oil available for recycling was recovered, exceeding the target by 4.5 per cent.

The largest contributors to this result are the strong provincial economy and excellent coverage of the growth sectors by the program. There has also been an overall increase in awareness of the program.

Used Oil Recovery Rate
(percentage)



2006-09 Business Plan Performance Measures

There are two changes to performance measures in the 2006-09 business plan reported on in 2006-07.

The Water Use and Efficiency and Productivity Indicator previously under consideration for inclusion in Business Plan 2007-10 was not developed due to the following challenges:

- Economic data is tied to sectors, while water use data is tied to individual license holders;
- There is no clear linkage between individual water license holders and economic data;
- Some sectors have detailed information on water use, others do not, and
- Sectors produce different products, so productivity information is not comparable and using GDP or dollar value of products may not be fair or meaningful.

The Stakeholder Satisfaction measure was updated to include "slightly satisfied", "satisfied" and "very satisfied" results.

In addition, the 2007-10 Business Plan underwent significant revisions in response to changes in the Ministry's focus and mandate. As a result, six new goals were developed for the next planning cycle, which caused significant revisions to the business plan performance measures.

2006-09 Business Plan Performance Measures

1.6 Drinking Water Safety Indicator

The Drinking Water Safety Indicator is comprised of three separate sub-measures that collectively provide an indicator of the performance of regulated waterworks facilities in delivering safe drinking water to Albertans. Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, Alberta Environment regulates waterworks facilities that provide drinking water to Albertans, including campgrounds and rural subdivisions that use surface water sources, and all waterworks in villages, towns, and cities. The measure demonstrates the high quality of Alberta's drinking water program, ensuring Albertans continue to enjoy safe drinking water.

The sub-measure is an assessment of an approved drinking water facility's design against newer Alberta Environment design standards. These standards are revised every five to 10 years. In January 2006, new standards were introduced and have been utilized for the facilities to which they apply. The reported results indicate the number of facilities that have maintained or upgraded to meet newer requirements. Staff members at Alberta Environment update these assessments throughout the year and report the results annually. The reported results indicate if continuous improvement and upgrading is occurring at the regulated facilities.

2. Approved Drinking Water Facilities

Approved drinking water facilities operate under conditions of an approval or registration issued under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. This sub-measure shows incidents where required conditions have not been met, possibly leading to water quality concerns.

Facilities are required to self-report non-compliance and, in addition, Alberta Environment annually inspects regulated facilities and reports the number of non-compliance incidents.

Regulated drinking water facilities must report on the quality of the treated water against specified limits. Alberta has adopted the health-related limits of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality published by Health Canada as well as establishing treatment performance requirements. Most health related limits are a concern if the water is consumed over a long period of time, while performance requirements are of a more immediate concern. Intervention is needed in either case and may range from a public health advisory, preventing consumption of the water, to a requirement to upgrade a waterworks facility.

This sub-measure shows incidents where a water quality parameter (chemical, physical or bacteriological) was unsatisfactory and identifies the total number of these non-compliance incidents on a provincial basis. Facilities are required to self-report non-compliance. In addition, Alberta Environment staff annually inspects approved facilities and reports the number of non-compliance incidents.

18. Surface Water Quality Index

Monthly water quality samples are collected at two locations for each of the province's six major river systems. An Index value is calculated for each of four variable groups based on data collected between April and March, representing both a fiscal and a "water" year:

- Metals (22 variables measured quarterly);
- Nutrients (six variables measured monthly, includes oxygen and pH);
- Bacteria (two variables measured monthly); and
- Pesticides (17 variables measured four times through the summer).

Index values for the four variable groups are then combined to produce an overall Index of surface water quality that can be tracked over time.

The formula used to calculate Index values for each group is based on three statistical attributes of water quality with respect to desirable levels (defined by water quality guidelines in most cases):

- **Scope**
The total number of water quality variables that do not meet guidelines;
- **Frequency**
The number of individual measurements for all variables combined that do not meet guidelines; and
- **Amplitude**
The amount by which measurements do not meet guidelines.

Variables in the first three groups (metals, nutrients and bacteria) are compared to published guidelines (e.g., Surface Water Quality Guidelines for Use in Alberta). Where a number of guidelines exist for one variable, the guideline for the most sensitive use (recreation, agriculture, or the protection of aquatic life) is typically chosen. Drinking water guidelines are not considered, since surface water should not be used for drinking without first being treated. The Index calculator is periodically revised to keep current with updates in National Water Quality Guidelines.

Variables in the fourth group (pesticides) are evaluated based on whether they can be detected in a water sample. This conservative approach was adopted because some pesticides do not yet have official guidelines and, unlike metals, nutrients and bacteria do not occur naturally in the environment.

10.1 Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is calculated from outdoor concentrations of four to five major air pollutants measured hourly at 13 locations across the province. The monitoring stations are situated in urban centers with consideration given to proximity to industrial and non-industrial sources. The pollutant giving the highest AQI measure for each hour determines the AQI for that hour. The hourly AQI number is compared to AQI ranges that represent "good" (0-25), "fair" (26-50), "poor" (51-100), and "very poor" (>100) air quality. The total number of hours of "good", "fair", "poor" and "very poor" air quality for all locations in the year is then expressed as the number of days in the year.

The pollutants used to calculate the AQI are carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide. Measurements of at least four of the five pollutants must be available to calculate the AQI, and PM_{2.5} must be one of the pollutants. The AQI number is used to determine whether the quality of the air is "good", "fair", "poor" or "very poor". These categories are derived using formulas based on air quality objectives under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the National Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

Over 40 monitoring stations report their data to the Clean Strategic Alliance (CASA) Data warehouse. Thirteen of these stations are used to calculate AQI including three stations each in Edmonton and Calgary, two stations in Fort McMurray, and one station each in Fort Saskatchewan, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer. All of the data used in the Air Quality Index are collected using continuous analyzers. The AQI Summary Report for the period January 1 to December 31 is obtained from the online CASA Data Warehouse and is imported into an Excel file.

10.2 Effective Water Management Infrastructure

The Effective Water Management Infrastructure (EWMI) measure is an assessment of three aspects of an asset: physical condition, utilization, and functional adequacy of provincially-owned water management infrastructure. Assets include dams, canals, and control structures. Reporting of various levels of infrastructure performance for each measure in EWMI is based on the percentage of the replacement value of the infrastructure being assessed.

Data and measures are based upon expert staff assessments using the documented rating systems templates. Initial assessments are subject to review and the approval of management and senior staff at Alberta Environment.

Workflow process and data are managed and housed in the Alberta Environment's electronic web-based Environmental Infrastructure Management System. Asset Inspection Instructions, Deficiency Reporting, a user training program and online help, ensures comparable performance ratings are obtained throughout the different regions within the province. Consistent language is used throughout the rating system.

A Consequence of Failure rating is also determined, and numerical values associated with this rating are combined in a matrix format with the Condition, Utilization and Functional Adequacy numerical rating values to determine a Risk Index value for each of the performance measures in effective water management infrastructure.

Performance Measure and Risk Index information prioritize and rank projects to aid in the decision to either maintain, rehabilitate, or replace the infrastructure asset. This information is assessed both informally and formally by management staff at Alberta Environment and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation (funding agency) to provide additional information for good decision making.

Infrastructure is assessed using the Capital Planning Initiative rating criteria as follows:

Capital Planning Initiative Rating Criteria

12 Community Flood Risk Mapping

This measure counts the number of flood risk mapping reports completed over time, and the number of flood risk maps posted to Alberta Environment's website. Flood risk maps are available to the public through a Telus Geomatics website. Maps have been incorporated into the internal databases for Emergency Management Alberta.

Staff at Alberta Environment provide the data for this performance measure. There is a significant amount of data used to develop each flood risk map and report. Flood risk mapping requires integration of the hydrological assessment of the flood risk, topographic data, historical flood records assessment, hydraulic modeling, and model mapping to terrain maps. This is followed by municipal review, consultation on designation and community assistance (such as educational packages, information open houses, development of appropriate bylaws, and other related activities) prior to website publication.

13 Stakeholder Satisfaction

This measure is an overall rating of the level of stakeholder satisfaction with the Ministry's services or programs. Stakeholder satisfaction is measured through a biannual stakeholder survey. The survey was conducted by an independent research firm. Stakeholders are asked to respond on a scale of 1 to 6 (very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, slightly dissatisfied, slightly satisfied, satisfied, very satisfied). It is based on the Government of Alberta's criteria for service excellence (courtesy, going the extra mile, knowledge, timeliness, and accessibility), and other performance criteria that are considered important by stakeholders. Stakeholder groups are those with interactions with Alberta Environment and include: academic institutions, government organizations, business and industry, and non-government organizations.

14 Municipal Solid Waste to Landfills

This measure indicates Alberta's progress toward meeting a continuous reduction, on a per capita basis, of municipal solid waste disposed in municipal landfills. Waste from the residential sector, the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector; and the construction, renovation, and demolition sector is included in this measure.

The calculation is based on the kilograms of municipal solid waste sent to each landfill and the population served by each applicable landfill. The measure is calculated using the most up to date population statistics, either Municipal Affairs' official provincial population list or Statistics Canada's census data. For the 2006 result, the population list used was mainly from Statistics Canada's census data. The calculation can also be further divided to illustrate urban and regional disposal amounts. The information is collected from landfills with weigh scales and is voluntarily provided. Approximately 85 per cent of Alberta's population is served by reporting landfills. Estimates are used for the remaining population, and are derived by multiplying measured urban and measured regional per capita disposal rates with unmeasured urban (if applicable) and unmeasured regional populations.

Progress is measured through annual targets regarding the amount of waste going to landfills. Since 2000, there have been increases each year in waste going to landfills, which is attributed to Alberta's increasingly robust economy. Alberta is moving toward using a measurement tool that focuses on the reporting of diversion as well as disposal. Using disposal figures alone as the measure of performance is inadequate. Disposal may be more indicative of the province's general economic activity, and less indicative of the province's ability to divert solid waste. The collection of data on both disposal and diversion are required to determine a clear and balanced indication of reduction.

18. New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation

The New Renewable and Alternative Energy Generation measure indicates Alberta's progress toward the goal of increasing the renewable and alternative energy portion of total provincial electricity sales by 3.5 per cent from 2001 levels by 2008. Renewable and alternative energy includes the net energy generation from facilities in Alberta that harness wind, hydro, and biofuels to produce electric energy. Data are obtained from the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) via Alberta Energy. Specifically, data are obtained from the EUB's Alberta Electric Industry Annual Statistics, which is currently an internal government document. Alberta Environment, in close collaboration with Alberta Energy, has selected the EUB as the source of data for this measure.

19. Beverage Containers Return Rate

The Beverage Container Management Board receives monthly sales and empty container return numbers from the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corporation, the approved Collection System Agent as defined in the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation for empty non-beer beverage containers.

Monthly sales and empty container return numbers are received from Brewers Distributor Limited, who is contracted by the Alberta Beer Container Corporation, the approved Collection System Agent as defined in the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation for empty beer containers.

The annual return rate is calculated by adding the audited annual empty beverage container returns of beer and non-beer and dividing that total by the manufacturers' reported beer and non-beer sales.

20. Used Oil Collection and Recovery

Volume of oil sold is calculated from remittances of the Environmental Handling Charge. Collectors of used oil calculate the volume of oil recovered from claims for the Return Incentive. The Alberta Used Oil Management Association estimates that 64.5 per cent of all oil sold is recoverable.

Companies provide the total volume sold (recoverable) and collectors are paid based on number of litres collected (recovered). The quantity of recovered oil is expressed as a percentage of the estimated volume of recoverable oil.

2006-2007 Environment and Heritage Budget

The Ministry of Environment balanced its budget in 2006-07. The year end expenses for the Ministry were within the voted budget. The Ministry continued to implement *Water for Life: Alberta's Strategy for Sustainability, Albertans and Climate Change: Taking Action* plan, and a long-term strategy for waste reduction and management in Alberta.

In 2006-07 the Ministry faced financial pressures to address continuous obligations under the grant programs, Alberta Waste Management Assistance Program, and Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program for various municipalities. The Alberta Waste Management Assistance Program fulfills the Government of Alberta's commitment to establish, in partnership with municipalities, regional landfill solutions throughout the province. The Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program supports municipal and regional flood, erosion, and stormwater control activities undertaken by municipalities. In order to address these obligations the Legislature approved a Supplementary Estimate of \$6.4 million in September 2006.

As land quality plays an important role in sustaining a healthy environment, the Ministry also received supplementary funding of \$5 million through the Energy Innovation Fund to address soil and groundwater issues with two key programs. The first program, oil sands reclamation research, was developed to ensure that land used for oil sands development is restored to a productive state, and the second, groundwater assessment and management, was implemented to further map Alberta's groundwater resources.

Alberta Environment continues to fund strategies to improve fiscal and expenditure management related to stewardship and protection of Alberta's environment.

Comparison of 2006-2007 Budget to 2006-2007 Actuals

The following provides explanations of the major program variances:

Atmospheric and Landscapes The program expenditures are \$2 million lower than the budgeted amount. This surplus is due to a reallocation of funding to address strategic ministry priorities in other program areas. An example of a strategic Ministry priority that received funding was the Conservation Strategy project, which aims to develop province-wide tools to encourage the use of conservation easements as part of the voluntary conservation of private lands.

Energy and Innovation The program spending exceeded the budgeted amount by \$1.3 million due to a reallocation of internal funding to address initiatives such as coalbed methane policy integration and cumulative effects management projects. These projects serve to determine the resource and environmental outcomes expected from southern Alberta landscapes, to describe the framework elements of an environmental system capable of managing cumulative effects, and to pilot the integration of data, knowledge, and analysis tools necessary to support the development of environmental outcomes.

Energy and Innovation The program expenditures are \$2.1 million higher than the budgeted amount. This over expenditure is primarily due to oil sands reclamation research and groundwater assessment and management. As part of supplementary funding through the Energy and Innovation Fund, \$2 million was used in support of these priorities to summarize existing research and resources relating to oil sands reclamation and to develop best management practices for the reclamation of oil sands mines, including the support of manuals and guidelines in place and under development by implementing and continuing research. The Ministry oversees the development of guidelines and documentation used to administer these programs, as well as ensuring that assessment and monitoring tools are in place to restore the quality of soil and groundwater to their full potential.

Alberta Waste Management Assistance and Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Programs

Additional grant payments under the Alberta Waste Management Assistance and Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control programs contributed to the \$8.4 million in expenditures over the budgeted amount. A Supplementary Estimate of \$6.4 million was approved in September 2006 by the Legislature to cover these grant commitments.

Ministry Systems Modernization The program expenditure for this area is \$2.3 million higher than the budgeted amount. This was the result of funds being used to rebuild information technology infrastructure in the Ministry and implement routine disclosure initiatives under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Comparison of 2006-07 Actuals to 2005-06 Actuals

The following provides explanations of the major program variances:

Water for Life The program spending in 2006-07 is \$2.8 million higher than in 2005-06. The Government of Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy aims to protect and manage Alberta's water resources to ensure safe, secure drinking water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, and reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy. In 2006-07, Alberta Environment invested in: building our understanding and management of groundwater resources, focusing in areas of potential coalbed methane development, accelerating the mapping of flood risks in Alberta, improving drinking water safety by upgrading waterworks systems, advancing programs for smaller communities, enhancing the province's laboratory capacity, and strengthening partnerships with the Alberta Water Council, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and Watershed Stewardship Groups.

Climate Change Program spending is \$1.9 million less than the previous year due to an allocation of funds towards the educational awareness program to educate Albertans on energy conservation programs. Funding is used to identify and implement policies, programs, and activities that most effectively reduce net greenhouse gas emissions through technological innovation and public education and outreach. Strategies are then implemented to remove obstacles and barriers to change, to adapt to climate change effects, and improve energy efficiencies.

Environmental Stewardship Program spending is \$5.6 million higher in 2006-07 due to the Ministry's increased focus on educating Albertans and sharing timely and credible information about the environment to create better stewards of the environment. During the fiscal year, the Ministry, in collaboration with industry, developed programs to educate Albertans on the actions needed to improve water conservation and water use efficiency, climate change action, and waste management and recycling programs.

Reclamation Research and Groundwater Quality Assessment The program spending in 2006-07 is \$2.4 million higher than in 2005-06 due to activities related to oil sands reclamation research and groundwater quality assessment. A Supplementary Estimate of \$2 million was approved in September 2006.

Alberta Waste Management Assistance and Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Programs Program spending in 2006-07 is \$3.6 million higher than in 2005-06 due to increased grant payments under the Alberta Waste Management Assistance and Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control programs. A Supplementary Estimate of \$6.4 million was approved in September 2006 to support these grant commitments.

Ministry Systems Modernization Program spending in 2006-07 is \$1.9 million higher as a result of expenditures relating to desktop integration and routine disclosure initiatives. Alberta Environment, in response to a regulatory change, is making a wide range of information and records available on a routine basis, and has therefore streamlined the process to expedite access to this information.

In spring 2006, we evaluated our business direction, taking into consideration Alberta's current and emerging environmental issues. Following discussions with our stakeholders and several internal planning sessions, we adjusted our mission, core businesses, and goals. These adjustments are reflected in the 2007-10 Business Plan. Our new direction will help us achieve the Minister's mandate and respond more effectively to the opportunities and challenges associated with our province's growth next year and in the years to come.

Alberta Environment assures the effective stewardship of Alberta's environmental systems to sustain a high quality of life.

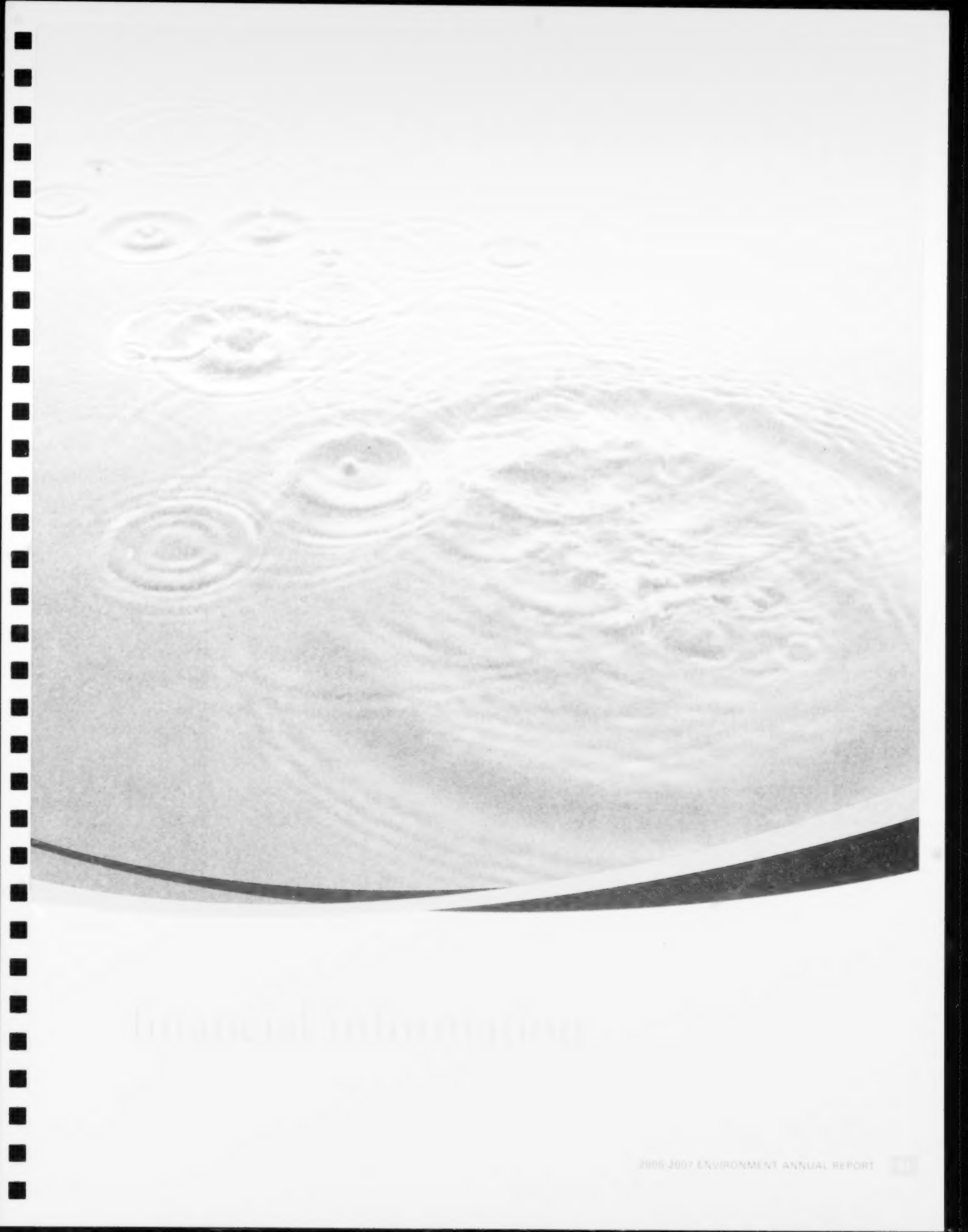
Our mission was reworded to emphasize our role in stewarding the complex systems that achieve government-desired objectives for the environment and quality of life. This clarifies Alberta Environment's contribution to the Government of Alberta's five priorities: governing with integrity and transparency, managing growth pressures, improving Albertans' quality of life, building a stronger Alberta, and providing safe and secure communities. This mission also highlights the importance of working collaboratively with Albertans to steward the environment.

1. Safeguarding public and environmental health
2. Leading and enabling citizens, communities, governments and industry to be environmental stewards
3. Leading and supporting the development and maintenance of critical regulatory systems and environmental infrastructure

We redefined our core businesses to better respond to Alberta's growth pressures, meeting the needs of both Albertans and the Government of Alberta.

1. The Ministry has effective risk management, preparation and responses to events and emerging and complex issues
2. The Ministry and its partners have the required policies and programs to achieve the Government of Alberta environmental outcomes
3. Albertans are aware of and understand existing and emerging environmental threats and opportunities
4. Communities, governments and industry support stewardship of the environment through innovative initiatives
5. Environmental infrastructure is developed and sustained to meet the Government of Alberta needs
6. Government of Alberta has a comprehensive, risk-based and flexible set of regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives to achieve environmental outcomes

Remaining environmental leaders means we need to adapt to Alberta's growing and changing economy. These goals reflect six key areas of action necessary to continue our leadership role and to achieve our mission and our vision of sustaining a high quality of life. They also support the Government of Alberta's priorities for the environment and sustainable development.



Financial Information

auditor's report on financial results

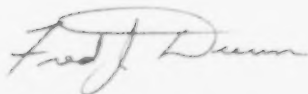
To the Members of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Ministry of Environment as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of operations and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Ministry's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ministry as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



 FCA

Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
June 5, 2007

statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	2007		2006
	Budget (Schedule 4)	Actual	Actual (Restated – Note 9)
Revenues (Schedule 1)			
Internal Government Transfers	\$ 4,225	\$ 2,566	\$ 3,957
Fees, Permits and Licenses	3,738	2,993	2,658
Other Revenue	1,098	4,370	5,224
	9,061	9,929	11,839
Expenses – Directly Incurred (Note 2b and Schedule 8)			
Voted (Schedules 3 and 5)			
Approvals	15,149	14,111	14,488
Compliance and Enforcement	8,575	9,668	9,572
Monitoring and Evaluation	18,741	16,761	17,360
Standards	5,770	5,884	5,478
Water Operations	11,987	11,933	12,106
Business Planning and Performance	2,087	2,076	2,062
Innovation and Policy	10,647	11,907	11,121
Drinking Water	1,748	1,536	1,596
Water for Life	8,810	8,325	5,538
Climate Change	3,600	3,083	4,936
Educational Awareness	8,566	8,823	3,260
Integrated Resource Management	6,951	9,018	6,660
Intergovernmental Relationships and Partnerships	3,642	12,059	8,450
Ministry Support Services	12,507	14,843	12,916
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	20,061	19,048	19,284
	138,841	149,075	134,827
Statutory Programs (Schedules 3 and 5)			
Land Reclamation Program	1,600	1,128	1,417
Emergency Spills and Cleanups	1,525	938	1,857
Drought and Flood Emergencies	600	–	183
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	–	1	–
Provision for Vacation Pay	99	59	873
Provision for Remediation and Reclamation	–	–	1,383
	3,824	2,126	5,713
Total Expenses	142,665	151,201	140,540
Loss on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	–	(3)	(42)
Net Operating Results	\$ (133,604)	\$ (141,275)	\$ (128,743)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	2007	2006 (Restated - Note 9)
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 201	\$ 166
Accounts Receivable (Note 3)	746	1,270
Advances	1	-
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	885,659	880,201
	\$ 886,607	\$ 881,637
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 22,433	\$ 24,357
Unearned Revenue	593	603
	23,026	24,960
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	856,677	849,974
Net Operating Results	(141,275)	(128,743)
Net Transfer from General Revenues	148,179	135,446
Net Assets at End of Year	863,581	856,677
	\$ 886,607	\$ 881,637

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

statement of cash flow

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	2007	2006 (Restated - Note 9)
Operating Transactions		
Net Operating Results	\$ (141,275)	\$ (128,743)
Non-cash items included in Net Operating Results		
Amortization (Schedule 3)	19,048	19,284
Loss on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	3	42
Valuation Adjustments	60	2,256
	(122,164)	(107,161)
Decrease in Accounts Receivable	523	620
Decrease in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(1,984)	(8,525)
Decrease in Unearned Revenue	(10)	(137)
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(123,635)	(115,203)
Capital Transactions		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(3,595)	(3,544)
Adjustment to Prior Year's Acquisition of Tangible Assets	43	-
Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	19	-
Transfer of Tangible Capital Assets to other Government Entities	525	-
Transfer of Tangible Capital Assets from other Government Entities	(21,500)	(16,694)
Cash Applied to Capital Transactions	(24,508)	(20,238)
Investing Transactions		
Decrease (Increase) in Advances	(1)	1
Cash Provided (applied to) by Investing Transactions	(1)	1
Financing Transactions		
Net Transfer from General Revenues	148,179	135,446
Increase in Cash	35	6
Cash, Beginning of Year	166	160
Cash, End of Year	\$ 201	\$ 166

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

notes to the financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2007 (in thousands)

NOTE 1 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The Ministry of Environment operates under the authority of the *Government Organization Act*, Chapter G-10, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

The purpose of the Ministry is to steward and protect Alberta's environment to sustain diverse ecosystems, healthy Albertans, strong communities, and a prosperous economy.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

The recommendations of the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants are the primary source for the disclosed basis of accounting. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies that have been established by government for all departments.

(a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Ministry of Environment for which the Minister of Environment is accountable. All departments of the Government of Alberta operate within the General Revenue Fund (the Fund). The Fund is administered by the Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of departments are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by departments are paid from the Fund. Net transfer from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

(b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Cash received for which goods or services have not been provided by year end is recorded as unearned revenue.

Internal Government Transfers

Internal government transfers are transfers between entities within the government reporting entity where the entity making the transfer does not receive any goods or services directly in return.

notes to the financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2007 (in thousands)

Dedicated Revenues

Dedicated revenue initiatives provide a basis for authorizing spending. Dedicated revenues are shown as credits or recoveries in the details of the Government Estimates for a supply vote. If actual dedicated revenues are less than budget and total voted expenses are not reduced by an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency in dedicated revenues, the following year's voted expenses are encumbered. If actual dedicated revenues exceed budget, the Ministry may, with the approval of the Treasury Board, use the excess revenue to fund additional expenses on the program. Schedule 2 discloses information on the Ministry's dedicated revenue initiatives.

Expenses

Directly Incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Ministry has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- Amortization of tangible capital assets.
- Pension costs which comprise the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year.
- Valuation adjustments which include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect financial assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay.

Incurred by Others

Services contributed by other entities in support of the Ministry operations are disclosed in Schedule 7.

Assets

Financial assets of the Ministry are limited to financial claims, such as advances to and receivables from other organizations, employees, and other individuals.

Assets acquired by right are not included.

Tangible capital assets of the Ministry are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The threshold for capitalizing new systems development is \$100,000 and the threshold for all other tangible capital assets is \$5,000. All land is capitalized.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recorded to the extent that they represent present obligations as a result of events and transactions occurring prior to the end of fiscal year. The settlement of liabilities will result in sacrifice of economic benefits in the future.

Environmental liabilities arise from the obligation to clean up contaminated sites (remediation) or to return disturbed land to an equivalent use (reclamation). A remediation or reclamation liability is recognized when the Ministry is obligated to incur such costs and an amount can be reasonably estimated.

Net Assets

Net assets represents the difference between the carrying value of assets held by the Ministry and its liabilities.

Measurement of Financial Instruments

Fair value is the amount of consideration agreed upon in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties who are under no compulsion to act.

The fair values of cash, accounts receivable, advances, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities are estimated to approximate their carrying values because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

notes to the financial statements

Reviewed March 31, 2007, in thousands

NOTE 8 NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

	Gross Amount	2007 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Net Realizable Value	2006 Net Realizable Value
Transfers from Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund	\$ 429	\$ —	\$ 429	\$ 1,023
Other Sources	318	1	317	247
	\$ 747	\$ 1	\$ 746	\$ 1,270

NOTE 9 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Buildings	Equipment*	Computer Hardware and Software	Land Improvements	Bridges	Dam and Water Management Structures**	2007 Total	2006 Total
Estimated Useful Life:	40 years	3 to 10 years	3 to 5 years	40 years	40 years	20 to 50 years		
Historical Cost***								
Beginning of year	\$ —	\$ 3,837	\$ 15,990	\$ 49	\$ 489	\$ 1,127,526	\$ 1,148,954	\$ 1,146,507
Additions	4	2,280	904	—	—	87,500	91,734	29,907
Disposals, including write-downs	4	(900)	(30)	—	489	(1,148,954)	(1,149,154)	(1,146,507)
	\$ —	\$ 5,217	\$ 16,664	\$ 49	\$ —	\$ 1,064,072	\$ 1,064,072	\$ 1,064,072
Accumulated Amortization								
Beginning of year	\$ —	\$ 1,432	\$ 14,999	\$ 1	\$ 96	\$ 104,963	\$ 117,491	\$ 117,491
Amortization expense	—	504	909	1	1	1,442	2,968	18,294
Effect of disposals	—	(100)	(30)	—	(96)	(1,442)	(2,678)	(18,294)
	\$ —	\$ 1,836	\$ 15,878	\$ 1	\$ —	\$ 103,963	\$ 117,781	\$ 117,491
Net Book Value at March 31, 2007	\$ —	\$ 3,381	\$ 1,786	\$ 48	\$ —	\$ 960,109	\$ 946,291	\$ 946,581
Net Book Value at March 31, 2006	\$ —	\$ 2,405	\$ 2,165	\$ 48	\$ 493	\$ 959,109	\$ 964,310	\$ 964,310

* Equipment includes vehicles, office furniture, heavy equipment and information equipment.

** Dams and water management structures include dams, reservoirs, weirs, canals, flyways, fishways, sluiceways, floodways, outfalls, pump houses, and erosion protection structures, which are controlled by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation and transferred to the Ministry of Environment upon their completion.

*** Historical cost includes working-in-progress at March 31, 2007 totaling \$2,267 (comprised of equipment \$762 (2006 \$569) and computer hardware and software \$1,495 (2006 \$1,151)).

notes to the financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2007 (in thousands)

NOTE 9

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS - YEAR ENDED 2007

Changes to tangible capital assets were as follows:

	2007	2006
Net Book Value at Beginning of Year	\$ 880,201	\$ 879,289
Purchase of Tangible Capital Assets	3,595	3,544
Net Book Value of Disposals and Write Downs	(21)	(42)
Adjustment to Prior Year's Accrual	(43)	—
Transfer with Other Government Entities	20,975	16,694
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	(19,048)	(19,284)
Net Book Value at End of Year	\$ 885,659	\$ 880,201

NOTE 10

Contractual Obligations

As at March 31, 2007 the Ministry has the following contractual obligations:

	2007	2006
Service contracts (a) (b)	\$ 9,986	\$ 14,170
Long term leases (c)	3,816	4,614
Grants		
Waste Management Assistance Program	4,524	7,347
Various Other Programs	243	102
	\$ 18,569	\$ 26,233

(a) The Ministry has a contractual obligation with the Pikani Nation of \$567 annually until 2009, \$800 in 2010, and \$800 adjusted annually by the CPI index every year thereafter.

(b) The Ministry has a contractual obligation with the Siksika Nation of \$127 based on 1984 constant dollars. This amount is adjusted annually by the preceding year's rate of change calculated from the GDP index every year thereafter.

(c) The Ministry leases certain equipment under operating leases that expire on various dates to 2012. The aggregate amounts payable for the unexpired terms of these leases are as follows:

2008	\$ 1,284
2009	991
2010	754
2011	579
2012	208
Total	\$ 3,816

notes to the financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2007 (in thousands)

NOTE 6 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At March 31, 2007, the Ministry is a defendant in seventeen legal claims (2006 – twenty-one legal claims). Twelve of these claims have specified amounts totalling \$141,060 and the remaining five have not specified any amount (2006 – seventeen claims with a specified amount of \$170,586 and the remaining four with no specified amount). Included in the total legal claims are four claims in which the Ministry has been named as the sole defendant (2006 – five legal claims). Two of these claims have a specified amount totalling \$3,346 and the remaining two claims have no specified amount (2006 – four claims with a specified amount of \$4,846 and the remaining one claim has no specified amount). In addition, there are

eight claims in which the Ministry has been jointly named with other entities (2006 – nine legal claims). Five of these claims have specified amounts totalling \$136,441 and the remaining three claims have no specified amount (2006 – six claims with specified amounts totalling \$160,081 and the remaining three claims with no specified amount). Five claims amounting to \$1,273 are covered fully by the Alberta Risk Management Fund (2006 – six claims with specified amounts totalling \$3,579).

The resulting loss, if any, from these claims cannot be determined.

NOTE 7 TRUST FUND UNDER ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry administers a trust fund that is a regulated fund consisting of public money over which the Legislature has no power of appropriation. Because the Province has no equity in the fund and administers it for the purpose of the trust, it is not included in the Ministry's financial statements.

At March 31, 2007, the trust fund under administration is as follows:

	2007	2006
Environmental Protection Security Fund	\$ 4,917	\$ 4,758
	\$ 4,917	\$ 4,758

In addition to the above trust fund under administration, the Ministry holds bank guarantees in the form of letters of credit and promissory notes in the amount of \$670,701 (2006 – \$548,396). The majority of these guarantees are held to assure satisfactory reclamation of coal and oilsands operations, sand and gravel pits, landfills, hazardous waste management and hazardous recyclable facilities.

notes to the financial statements

Year ended March 31, 2007 (in thousands)

NOTE 8 EMPLOYEE PENSION PLANS

The Ministry participates in the multi-employer pension plans, Management Employees Pension Plan, and Public Service Pension Plan. The Ministry also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$5,228 for the year ended March 31, 2007 (2006 – \$4,676).

At December 31, 2006, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of \$6,765 (2005 – \$165,895) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$153,024 (2005 – \$187,704 deficiency). At December 31, 2006, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a surplus of \$3,698 (2005 – \$10,018).

The Ministry also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2007, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of \$153 (2006 – \$8,699 actuarial deficiency) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan, an actuarial surplus of \$10,148 (2006 – \$8,309). The expense for these two plans is limited to employers' annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 9 RESTATEMENT OF PRIOR YEARS

Administrative costs for 2006 have been restated as if the Ministry of Environment had always been assigned with its current responsibilities.

The costs (\$2,509) of certain administrative functions are now the responsibility of the Department of Service Alberta. The Department of Service Alberta continues to provide the Ministry with the services related to these administrative functions, but no consideration is exchanged.

The costs (\$146) of the amalgamated coordination and information centre are now the responsibility of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

These changes resulted in the 2006 Net Operating Results increasing by \$2,655 and the Net Transfer from General Revenues decreasing by \$2,655.

NOTE 10 RECLASSIFICATION OF 2006 FIGURES

Certain 2006 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2007 presentation.

The financial statements were approved by the Senior Financial Officer and the Deputy Minister.

Revenues

AS ENCLOSED BY 1

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	Budget	2007 Actual	2006 Actual
Internal Government Transfers			
Transfer from Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund	\$ 3,725	\$ 2,068	\$ 3,457
Transfer from the Lottery Fund	500	500	500
	4,225	2,568	3,957
Fees, Permits and Licenses			
Land and Grazing	55	74	52
Reclamation Certificates	2,100	1,188	537
Water Power Rentals	650	830	1,128
Other	933	921	941
	3,738	2,993	2,658
Other Revenue			
Refunds of Expenditure		312	438
Water Resources	750	3,939	4,626
Other	348	119	160
	1,098	4,370	5,224
	\$ 9,061	\$ 9,929	\$ 11,839

dedicated revenues initiatives

contaminating sites

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	Authorized Dedicated Revenues	2007 Actual Dedicated Revenues	(Shortfall)/ Excess
Contamination Audits	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,099	\$ (1,001)
Water Management Infrastructure	1,250	3,341	2,091
	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,440	\$ 1,090

The Contamination Audits dedicated revenue initiative refers to the costs of conducting contamination audits at sites that are certified under the upstream oil and gas reclamation program. Revenues are received through a reclamation certificate application fee.

The Water Management Infrastructure dedicated revenue initiative refers to the maintenance and upgrading of the provincial water management infrastructure system. Revenues are received through the Use of Works Agreements whereby developers pay an annual fee to the Province.

The dedicated revenue presented in this schedule is included in the Ministry's Statement of Operations.

Note:

Additional dedicated revenue of \$500 for Water Management Infrastructure was approved on August 8, 2006. Treasury Board approval is pursuant to section 24(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

expenses – directly incurred detailed by object

Table 10: Expenses by object

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	Budget	2007 Actual	2006 Actual (Restated – Note 9)
Voted:			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ 71,295	\$ 69,531	\$ 64,177
Supplies and Services	41,986	39,330	37,689
Grants	5,414	21,061	13,584
Financial Transactions and Other	85	105	93
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	20,061	19,048	19,284
	138,841	149,075	134,827
Statutory:			
Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits	\$ –	\$ 280	\$ 339
Supplies and Services	3,725	1,477	3,017
Grants	–	309	101
Valuation Adjustment			
Provision for Doubtful Accounts	–	1	–
Provision for Vacation Pay	99	59	873
Provision for Remediation and Reclamation	–	–	1,383
	\$ 3,824	\$ 2,126	\$ 5,713

budget

SCHEDULE 3

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	2006-07 Estimates	Authorized Supplementary (a)	2006-07 Authorized Budget
Revenues			
Internal Government Transfers	\$ 4,225	\$ -	\$ 4,225
Premium, Fees and Licenses	3,738	-	3,738
Other Revenue	1,098	500	1,598
	9,061	500	9,561
Expenses - Directly Incurred			
Voted			
Approvals	15,149	-	15,149
Compliance and Enforcement	8,575	-	8,575
Monitoring and Evaluation	18,741	-	18,741
Standards	5,770	-	5,770
Water Operations	11,987	500	12,487
Business Planning and Performance	2,087	-	2,087
Innovation and Policy	10,647	-	10,647
Drinking Water	1,748	-	1,748
Water for Life	8,810	3,000	11,810
Climate Change	3,600	-	3,600
Educational Awareness	8,566	-	8,566
Integrated Resource Management	6,951	2,000	8,951
Intergovernmental Relationships and Partnerships	3,642	6,400	10,042
Ministry Support Services	12,507	-	12,507
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	20,061	-	20,061
	138,841	11,900	150,741
Statutory Expenses			
Land Reclamation Program	1,600	-	1,600
Emergency Spills and Cleanups	1,525	-	1,525
Drought and Flood Emergencies	600	-	600
Valuation Adjustments			
Provision for Vacation Pay	99	-	99
	3,824	-	3,824
	142,665	11,900	154,565
Net Operating Results	\$ (133,604)	\$ (11,400)	\$ (145,004)
Equipment / Inventory Purchases	\$ 3,285	\$ -	\$ 3,285

(a) Supplementary Estimates were approved on September 8, 2006. Treasury Board approval is pursuant to section 24(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

comparison of expenses – directly incurred, equipment/inventory purchases and statutory expenses by element to authorized budget

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

	2006-2007 Estimates	Authorized Supplementary (a)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual Expense (b)	Unexpended (Over- Expended)
Voted Operating Expenses and Equipment/Inventory Purchases					
Ministry Support Services					
1.0.1 Minister's Office	\$ 389	\$ -	\$ 389	\$ 389	\$ -
1.0.2 Cabinet Policy Committee on Resources and the Environment	35	-	35	19	17
1.0.3 Deputy Minister's Office	412	-	412	404	8
1.0.4 Communications	797	-	797	881	(84)
1.0.5 People Services	1,438	-	1,438	1,375	63
1.0.6 Corporate Services					
- Operating Expense	6,927	-	6,927	8,212	(1,285)
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	106	(106)
1.0.7 Corporate Costs					
- Operating Expense	2,509	-	2,509	2,581	(1,072)
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	14	(14)
Total Program 1	12,507	-	12,507	14,963	(2,456)
Assuring Environmental Quality					
2.0.1 Approvals	15,149	-	15,149	14,111	1,038
2.0.2 Compliance and Enforcement	8,575	-	8,575	9,668	(1,093)
2.0.3 Monitoring and Evaluation					
- Operating Expense	16,741	-	16,741	16,761	1,980
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	255	-	255	25	230
2.0.4 Standards	5,778	-	5,778	5,884	(114)
2.0.5 Water Operations		500			
- Operating Expense	11,887	500	12,487	11,933	554
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	30	-	30	38	(8)
2.0.6 Business Planning and Performance	2,087	-	2,087	2,076	11
2.0.7 Innovation and Policy					
- Operating Expense	10,647	-	10,647	11,907	(1,260)
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	100	-	100	71	29
2.0.8 Drinking Water					
- Operating Expense	1,748	-	1,748	1,538	212
- Equipment / Inventory Purchases	-	-	-	10	(10)
2.0.9 Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	20,061	-	20,061	19,048	1,013
Total Program 2	95,750	500	96,650	83,066	2,084

comparison of expenses – directly incurred, equipment/inventory purchases and statutory expenses by element to authorized budget

ACT 1000, 1117, 1200, 1201, 1202

Year ended March 31, 2007

(in thousands)

	2006-2007 Estimates	Authorized Supplementary (a)	2006-2007 Authorized Budget	2006-2007 Actual Expense (b)	Unexpended (Over Expended)
Voted Operating Expenses and Equipment/ Inventory Purchases – (continued)					
Sharing Environmental Management and Stewardship					
3.0.1 Water For Life					
– Operating Expense	\$ 8,910	\$ 3,000	\$ 11,910	\$ 8,329	\$ 3,485
– Equipment - Inventory Purchases	2,900	—	2,900	9,233	(333)
3.0.2 Climate Change	3,600	—	3,600	3,083	517
3.0.3 Educational Awareness					
– Operating Expense	8,566	—	8,566	8,823	(257)
– Equipment - Inventory Purchases	—	—	—	78	(78)
3.0.4 Integrated Resource Management					
– Operating Expense	6,951	2,000	8,951	8,018	937
– Equipment - Inventory Purchases	—	—	—	89	(89)
3.0.5 Intergovernmental Relationships and Partnerships	3,642	6,400	10,042	12,698	(2,617)
Total Program 3	34,489	11,400	45,889	44,041	1,328
	142,126	11,900	154,026	152,870	1,356
Operating Expense	138,841	11,900	150,741	148,049	1,696
Equipment - Inventory Purchases	3,285	—	3,285	3,899	(310)
	\$ 142,126	\$ 11,900	\$ 154,026	\$ 152,870	\$ 1,356
Statutory Expenses					
Land Reclamation Program	\$ 1,600	\$ —	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,120	\$ 473
Emergency Spills and Cleanups	1,525	—	1,525	800	597
Drought and Flood Emergencies	800	—	800	800	—
Valuation Adjustments	89	—	89	89	—
	\$ 3,014	\$ —	\$ 3,014	\$ 2,729	\$ 285

(a) Supplementary Estimates were approved on September 8, 2006. Treasury Board approval is pursuant to section 24(2) of the Financial Administration Act.

(b) Includes Government Grants amounting to \$1,663.

salary and benefits disclosure

Table 10.1 (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2007⁽¹⁾

	2007 ⁽¹³⁾			2006	
	Base Salary ⁽²⁾	Other Cash Benefits ⁽³⁾	Other Non-Cash Benefits ⁽⁴⁾	Total	Total
Deputy Minister ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 206,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 48,276	\$ 315,276	\$ 271,036
Assistant Deputy Ministers					
Environmental Assurance Division ^(6,7,8)	146,522	29,936	33,020	209,478	168,912
Environmental Management Division ⁽⁹⁾	149,991	18,950	36,223	205,064	176,850
Environmental Stewardship Division ^(9,10,11)	153,682	24,627	34,723	213,032	75,328
Corporate Services Division ⁽⁶⁾	15,087		2,963	17,950	205,401
Oil Sands Environmental Management Division ⁽⁹⁾	25,420	3,096	5,959	34,475	
Executive Directors					
Finance and Administration Division ⁽¹²⁾	17,582	2,100	5,350	25,032	
Strategic Planning Secretariat ⁽¹⁰⁾	19,072	2,300	5,576	26,948	
People Services	122,141	14,100	29,696	165,937	147,445
Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team ⁽¹¹⁾	68,674	10,800	15,533	95,007	

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses, vacation payouts, overtime and lump sum payments.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include government's share of all employee benefits and contributions in payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plan, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile provided; no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances.

(5) This position was occupied by two individuals throughout the year.

(6) As of January 18th, 2007, this position is part of the Executive Mobility Program.

(7) As of January 18th, 2007, this position is no longer part of the Executive Mobility Program.

(8) The Corporate Services ADM position became vacant in May 2006 and was not filled.

(9) The ADM of the Oil Sands Environmental Management Division was created on January 18, 2007.

(10) These positions became Executive members on January 18, 2007.

(11) The Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team Executive Director position was created June 24, 2006 and was abolished on January 18, 2007. The incumbent became the ADM of the Environmental Management Division.

(12) The salary and benefits paid for Executive Mobility Program participants are paid by the Personnel Administration Office and are included in this schedule.

(13) A ministry realignment occurred on January 18, 2007. Environmental Management and Environmental Stewardship were formally called Regional Services and Strategic Directions respectively.

related party transactions

Year ended March 31, 2007
(in thousands)

Related parties are those entities consolidated or accounted for on a modified equity basis in the Province of Alberta's financial statements. Related parties also include management in the Ministry.

The Ministry and its employees paid or collected certain taxes and fees set by regulation for permits, licences, and other charges. These amounts were incurred in the normal course of business, reflect charges applicable to all users, and have been excluded from this Schedule.

The Ministry had the following transactions with related parties recorded on the Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position at the amount of consideration agreed upon between the related parties:

		Other Entities	
		2007	2006
Revenue			
Internal Government Transfers	\$	2,566	\$ 3,957
	\$	2,566	\$ 3,957
Expenses – Directly Incurred			
Other Services	\$	3,470	\$ 3,498
	\$	3,470	\$ 3,498
Tangible Capital Assets Transferred	\$	20,975	\$ 16,695
Receivable from	\$	694	\$ 1,023

The Ministry also had the following transactions with related parties for which no consideration was exchanged. The amounts for these related party transactions are estimated based on the costs incurred by the service provider to provide the service. These amounts are not recorded in the financial statements.

		Other Entities	
		2007	2006
Expenses – Incurred by Others			
Accommodation	\$	6,439	\$ 6,311
Legal		2,293	1,808
Water Management Infrastructure Maintenance		6,598	4,111
Air Transportation/Executive Vehicles		196	157
Service Alberta		2,716	2,509
	\$	18,242	\$ 14,896

alphabetical list of entities' financial statements in ministry 2006-07 annual reports

Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development

Ministry of the Environment / Environment Canada / Ministry Annual Report

Access to the Future Fund¹ • Advanced Education and Technology
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation • Agriculture and Food
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission • Health and Wellness
Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund² • Finance
Alberta Capital Finance Authority • Finance
Alberta Energy and Utilities Board • Energy
Alberta Foundation for the Arts • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission • Solicitor General and Public Security
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Endowment Fund • Finance
Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund • Finance
Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund • Finance
Alberta Heritage Science and Engineering Research Endowment Fund • Finance
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Insurance Council • Finance
Alberta Local Authorities Pension Plan Corporation³ • Finance
Alberta Pension Administration Corporation • Finance
Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission • Energy
Alberta Research Council Inc. • Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Risk Management Fund • Finance
Alberta School Foundation Fund • Education
Alberta Securities Commission • Finance
Alberta Sexual Misconduct Corporation • Municipal Affairs and Housing
Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture
Alberta Treasury Branches • Finance
ATB Insurance Agency Inc.⁴ • Finance
ATB Investment Management Inc. • Finance
ATB Investment Services Inc. • Finance
ATB Services Inc. • Finance
Child and Family Services Authorities • Children's Services
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
Edmonton Area Child and Family Services Authority
East Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Authority
North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Northeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services Authority
Many Settlements Child and Family Services Authority

¹ Government of Alberta, 2006

² Government of Alberta, 2006

³ Government of Alberta, 2006

⁴ Government of Alberta, 2006

alphabetical list of entities' financial statements in ministry 2006-07 annual reports

C-FER Technologies (1999) Inc. • Advanced Education and Technology

Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation • Finance

Colleges • Advanced Education and Technology

Advanced Education and Technology

Alberta College of Art and Design

Bow Valley College

Grande Prairie Regional College

Grant MacEwan College

Keyano College

Lakeland College

Lethbridge Community College

Medicine Hat College

Mount Royal College

NorQuest College

Northern Lakes College

Olds College

Portage College

Red Deer College

Department of Advanced Education and Technology • Advanced Education and Technology

Department of Agriculture and Food • Agriculture and Food

Department of Children's Services • Children's Services

Department of Education • Education

Department of Energy • Energy

Department of Finance • Finance

Department of Health and Wellness • Health and Wellness

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing • Municipal Affairs and Housing

Department of Seniors and Community Supports • Seniors and Community Supports

Department of Solicitor General and Public Security • Solicitor General and Public Security

Department of Sustainable Resource Development • Sustainable Resource Development

Department of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund • Sustainable Resource Development

Gainers Inc. • Finance

Government House Foundation • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Historic Resources Fund • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

iCORE Inc. • Advanced Education and Technology

Lottery Fund • Solicitor General and Public Security

Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology • Advanced Education and Technology

Ministry of Agriculture and Food • Agriculture and Food

Ministry of Children's Services • Children's Services

Ministry of Education • Education

Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry⁶ • Employment, Immigration and Industry

⁶ Ministry includes original responsibilities and subsequent reorganizations. For example, Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

alphabetical list of entities' financial statements in ministry 2006-07 annual reports

School Boards and Charter Schools • Education

Almadina School Society
Aspen View Regional Division No. 19
Aurora School Ltd.
Battle River Regional Division No. 31
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18
Boyle Street Education Centre
Buffalo Trail Public Schools Regional Division No. 28
Calgary Arts Academy Society
Calgary Girls' School Society
Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1
Calgary School District No. 19
Calgary Science School Society
Canadian Rockies Regional Division No. 12
CAPE Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence Institute
Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 3
Clearview School Division No. 71
East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools Regional Division No. 16
East Central Francophone Education Region No. 3
Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7
Edmonton School District No. 7
Elk Island Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 41
Elk Island Public Schools Regional Division No. 14
Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2
FFCA Charter School Society
Foothills School Division No. 38
Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 32
Fort McMurray School District No. 2833
Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52
Golden Hills School Division No. 75
Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357
Grande Prairie Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 28
Grande Yellowhead Regional Division No. 35
Grasslands Regional Division No. 6
Greater North Central Francophone Education Region No. 2
Greater Southern Public Francophone Education Region No. 4
Greater Southern Separate Catholic Francophone Education Region No. 4
Greater St. Albert Catholic Regional Division No. 29
High Prairie School Division No. 48
Holy Family Catholic Regional Division No. 37
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 4
Horizon School Division No. 67
Lakeland Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 150
Lethbridge School District No. 51

alphabetical list of entities' financial statements in ministry 2006-07 annual reports

School Boards and Charter Schools • Education (continued)

Living Waters Catholic Regional Division No. 42
Livingstone Range School Division No. 68
Medicine Hat Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 20
Medicine Hat School District No. 76
Motherly Hall School Society
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School Society
New Horizons Charter School Society
Northern Gateway Regional Division No. 10
Northern Lights School Division No. 69
Northland School Division No. 61
Northwest Francophone Education Region No. 1
Palliser Regional Division No. 26
Parkland School Division No. 70
Peace River School Division No. 10
Peace Wapiti School Division No. 76
Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7
Prairie Land Regional Division No. 25
Prairie Rose School Division No. 8
Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39
Red Deer School District No. 104
Rocky View School Division No. 41
St. Albert Protestant Separate School District No. 6
St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1
St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 38
Sturgeon School Division No. 24
Suzuki Charter School Society
Westmount Charter School Society
Westwind School Division No. 74
Wetaskwin Regional Division No. 11
Wild Run School Division No. 88
Wolf Creek School Division No. 72

Supplementary Retirement Plan Employees Fund • Finance

Technical Institutes and The Banff Centre • Advanced Education and Technology

Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
The Banff Centre for Continuing Education

Universities • Advanced Education and Technology

Athabasca University
The University of Alberta
The University of Calgary
The University of Lethbridge

Victims of Crime Fund • Solicitor General and Public Security

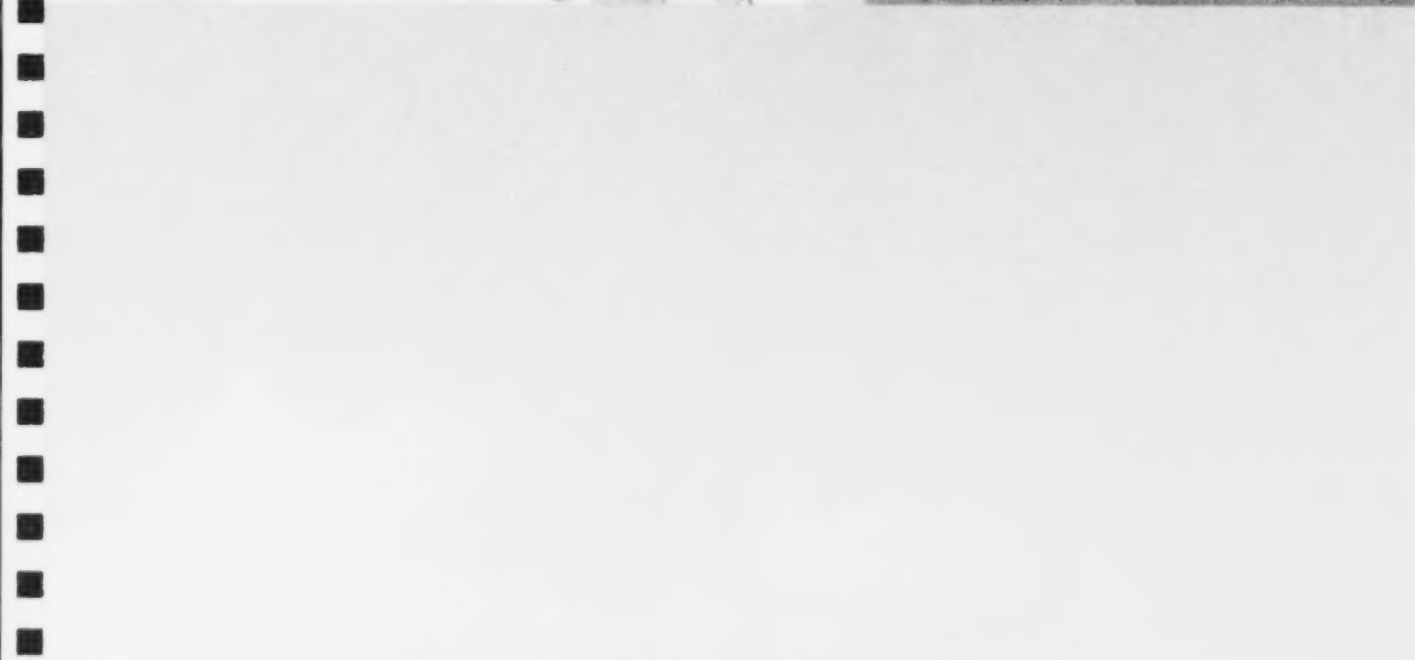
Wild Rose Foundation • Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

alphabetical list of entities' financial statements in ministry 2006-07 annual reports

ENTITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT REPORTING ENTITY

Fund or Agency • Ministry Annual Report

Alberta Foundation for Health Research • Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research • Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research • Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board • Education
Improvement Districts' Trust Account • Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Authorities Pension Plan • Finance
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Bargaining Unit • Service Alberta
Long-Term Disability Income Continuance Plan - Management, Opted Out and Excluded • Service Alberta
Management Employees Pension Plan • Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers Pension Plan • Finance
Provincial Judges and Masters in Chambers (Unregistered) Pension Plan • Finance
Public Service Management (Closed Membership) Pension Plan • Finance
Public Service Pension Plan • Finance
Special Areas Trust Account • Municipal Affairs and Housing
Special Forces Pension Plan • Finance
Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers • Finance
Workers' Compensation Board • Employment, Immigration and Industry





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